

Is supporting 1MDB more important than Umno, asks Semporna division
Malaysian Insider
Oct 31, 2015

The Semporna Umno division has questioned if protecting and supporting 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) is considered more important than the party, following reports that some senior Umno leaders are set to face suspension following their criticism over the state investment firm.

In a statement issued late yesterday, the committee voiced its worry regarding reports that deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, and vice-president Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal, who is also the Semporna division chief, would be suspended before the Umno assembly in December.

"Is voicing out for the people no longer a priority for Umno? Has 1MDB become an institution that is bigger, more powerful and more influential compared to Umno, so much so that any leader who criticises it faces suspension?" the committee asked.

"Does 1MDB belong to Umno? Would supporting 1MDB strengthen Umno?"

The statement comes amid reports that 154 Umno division chiefs had agreed that action be taken against those critical of party leadership, especially in the 1MDB issue.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor previously said seven Umno leaders would be facing suspension due to their criticism of the leadership.

Apart from Muhyiddin and Shafie, former minister Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad were among the seven mentioned.

"Would sacking or suspending members and former leaders who had served the people in the past do any good in returning the people's confidence in Umno?" it said.

The committee asked if the party leadership was aware that the leaders criticising 1MDB were actually voicing a concern that was close to the hearts of the people.

"Are we so strong that we forget that the basis for our struggle is the people's interests, and not the interests of certain leaders?"

The committee said neither Muhyiddin nor Shafie stated that Datuk Seri Najib Razak had misappropriated funds in the 1MDB scandal.

"All they are saying is that if there is misappropriation, those responsible must face the music without fear or favour. Isn't that the same message that Najib had conveyed?"

It warned that suspending these leaders would immediately alienate Umno from the

youths.

"The youths want leaders who are willing to state the truth and not leaders who just issue rhetorical or arrogant statements."

It added that every vote in every seat for the next general election would be important, and reminded that the likes of Shafie and Muhyiddin have their own supporters, not just in their own areas, but nationwide.

"Shafie is one of the leaders who were responsible in bringing Umno to Sabah. What message would we be sending if someone who helped bring Umno to Sabah and was a minister in seven different ministries is suspended just because he voiced his concerns regarding the people's perception of Umno?" – October 31, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/is-supporting-1mdb-more-important-than-umno-asks-semporna-division>