

## **Don't blame external factors for country's woes, Kit Siang tells Najib Malaysian Insider Nov 8, 2015**

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak should not attempt to "pass the buck" by blaming external factors for the country's woes, Gelang Patah MP Lim Kit Siang said, citing five factors that contributed to the problems.

Lim, who is also the DAP parliamentary leader, said Najib is guilty of a "serious denial syndrome" in refusing to accept that although the falling global oil prices have a huge impact on the depreciation of the ringgit, the prolonged crisis of confidence and political turmoil in the country are also major factors undermining the economy.

"I do not think Najib would find much sympathy or support for his attempt to 'pass the buck' and blame external factors for the country's woes," Lim said in a statement today.

He was responding to Najib's remark last night that blame should not be placed entirely on Putrajaya for what is happening in the country, as the main factors causing this are external and out of the government's control.

The ringgit has been Asia's weakest performing currency this year, reaching its lowest value against the US dollar in 17 years and dropping to more than RM4 to the dollar currently.

Lim said the five factors why Najib cannot shift responsibility for the country's woes to external causes are:

- 1) the RM2.6 billion deposited into his personal accounts,
- 2) the scandal surrounding state investment firm 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB),
- 3) the Federal Bureau of Investigations' (FBI) probe on him,
- 4) a fractured government that included the stand-off between the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the finance ministry's SRC International, and
- 5) Najib's popularity rating, including among Malay voters, being at an "all-time low".

"These five factors have combined to make Najib personally responsible for the depth of the multitude of crisis afflicting Malaysia – economic, political, good governance and nation-building – to the extent that analysts are talking about the approach of a "perfect storm" to hit the country.

"Instead of wasting time denying... Najib should tell Malaysians what he is doing about the prolonged crisis of confidence bedeviling his premiership and government, and in particular the RM2.6 billion 'donation' and the 1MDB scandal," he said. – November 8, 2015.

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