

Prime Briefing Proves Government's Transparency

Bernama

Nov 14, 2015

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- The government has come out publicly to answer all questions on 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) and 2016 Budget at a prime briefing held at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) Saturday.

Most of the participants, made up of representatives from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), government agencies, youth groups, corporations and professionals described the session as proof of the government's transparency to fend off slander spread by irresponsible parties.

The briefing started at 8.30am with a presentation by Arul Kanda Kandasamy, the President and Executive Director of 1MDB, followed by International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed and Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Mohd Hanadzlah.

Gerakan Memartabatkan Pejuang Negara president Major (Rtd) Razali Zakaria said he believed that the briefing could act as a platform for an open and transparent two-way communication so that the public could be provided with accurate information in order to dismiss all false allegations against 1MDB and the TPPA.

"When people came here, they could listen for themselves from the important relevant persons, who are more knowledgeable about 1MDB, TPPA and 2016 Budget. Not information simply taken from the social media," he said.

Federal Territory UMNO Youth chief Mohd Razlan Muhammad Rafii said that the proactive session should be held regularly as there were various medium of communication to spread unverified information on 1MDB, TPPA and 2016 Budget nowadays.

"They (keyboard warriors) are faceless but instead deliberately spread information based on their own perception. They only want to confuse people, but not come face to face.

"Today, I can see Arul answering the questions with confidence and courage. This is what we want, so that 1MDB issues are not distorted anymore," he said.

Meanwhile, Siswazah Warisan president Mohd Asrul Seman suggested that such briefing sessions be extended to all public and private universities, in effort to provide related information to the students.

He said a tour of the briefing series for undergraduates would enable them to understand the government's efforts, in addition to ensure they not continuously use social media for spreading inaccurate information.

"As a member of the Student Representatives Council, I wish to organise a faculty programme to impart knowledge and information I have gained today to the students in the campus," he said.

Representing women entrepreneurs, Datuk Maznah Hamid said the briefing needed to be held earlier in order to avoid any speculation among the people.

"We ourselves who are living in the city are flooded with all sorts of stories about 1MDB..TPPA and so on, let alone those who live in the rural areas," she said.

In the meantime, she was satisfied with the initiative taken by the government to help people to understand the issues that are currently debated, particularly in relation with the 1MDB.

Sharing the same opinion with Maznah was a member of the Gagasan Aku Melayu Islam Tanahair, Datuk Yapri Kamaruzaman Kushairi, who wanted the briefing tour series to be carried out in rural areas as Goods and Services Tax (GST) briefing which was previously held nationwide. "At first, people got angry when the government wanted to implement the GST, but over time, it has finally been accepted by the people after they got the exact knowledge and facts from the briefing tour conducted in their areas," he said.

In the meantime, several pro-government leaders and members criticised the opposition, who all this while have been urging the government to explain on 1MDB and TPPA but refused to grab this opportunity to come and listen to the comprehensive explanation given by the three presenters on the issues today.

Malaysian Indian Muslim Congress president Senator Datuk Seri Syed Ibrahim Kader believed the today's explanation session was quite clear that the government had no hidden agenda in implementing any government policy.

"The explanation is done, we think it is quite clear and transparent for us, the government we have today has proved they have courage to reveal the truth. Everything is provided with evidence and facts just now, not only an empty talk," he said.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1189620>