

Muhyiddin gagged, Najib afraid of being embarrassed at Umno assembly, says Kadir Jasin
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Restrictions on former deputy prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin ahead of the Umno general assembly next week show that Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his followers are afraid of being embarrassed by his deputy, said veteran newsman Datuk A. Kadir Jasin.

"They are afraid of being shouted at and heckled. What they are most afraid of is, if Muhyiddin and Najib's critics get thunderous applause (at the assembly).

"Or that there are demonstrators outside the hall carrying signs on 1MDB (troubled state investor 1Malaysia Development Berhad) or on the RM2.6 billion donation (which Najib received)," Kadir wrote in the latest posting of his blog The Scribe.

"Najib and his supporters fear that questions from Muhyiddin and certain courageous Umno branches on these issues will change the positions of the assembly's delegates on the president," said Kadir.

This is because Najib and his followers are not totally confident that Umno's grassroots members have bought their explanations on these issues, he wrote.

Muhyiddin, who has been critical of Najib's handling of the 1MDB issue, has been barred from giving the keynote address at the opening of the Wanita, Puteri and Umno Youth assemblies.

The decision to bar Muhyiddin has been criticised as the practice has been part of the party's tradition over the past few decades.

Najib's critics in Umno have accused him of trying to silence Muhyiddin, who was dropped from Cabinet in July.

"Muhyiddin has legitimate questions on issues that have been kept hidden from party members, or that which they have been deceived.

"Questions such as 1MDB, SRC International and the RM2.6 billion donation that has gone into his accounts."

Besides suppressing Muhyiddin's voice, Kadir said these strictures represented the destruction of democracy, tradition and convention in Umno just because Najib and his followers had no confidence in the delegates, observers and members.

"Those who are more numerous and who have wide powers over the party's propaganda machine are afraid of facing a deputy president who has no post and no access to the party machinery." – December 3 2015.

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