

Amanah demands answers on 1MDB, hands memo to PM

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By Minderjeet Kaur

Amanah Youth leaders and supporters gather outside the prime minister's office to hand over a memorandum voicing concern over the mounting debts in a state-owned investment firm.

PUTRAJAYA: Amanah Youth today said they submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Najib Razak demanding clarification on issues relating to debts involving 1MDB.

Amanah Youth deputy chief Muhammad Faiz Fadzil said the issues relating to 1MDB will be forwarded to other enforcement agencies such as the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Agency (MACC), Attorney-General's Chambers and the Conference of Rulers in 10 days.

Amanah Youth leaders and supporters were at the prime minister's office and Faiz said the memorandum was received by Najib's aid, Nik Mohd Hussin.

Faiz questioned the delay in taking action against the people responsible for the 1MDB money trail.

"Why hasn't the police and MACC taken action against Riza Aziz (Najib's stepson), (Malaysian businessman) Jho Low and the money sent to Aabar (BVI). Where are they?" Faiz asked.

He was referring to a settlement between 1MDB and International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) ahead of arbitration proceedings at the London Court of International Arbitration.

1MDB had previously claimed it paid to IPIC's subsidiary, British Virgin Island-registered Aabar Investment PJS Limited ("Aabar(BVI)"), a total of RM3.51 billion between 2012 and 2014, something that IPIC disputed last year, claiming it never received the money.

"1MDB claimed they had made the payment before but why did 1MDB agree to make another payment?"

"The ten days we have given him is ample time for him to reply to the public. It involves public funds and Najib needs to clarify to the public. We seek a credible and concrete explanation from him," Faiz said.

“We are concerned about this additional payment. It is a lot of money. How will the debts be settled?” he said, adding that this was happening at a time when Malaysians were feeling the pinch due to the high cost of living.

Faiz said after seven years since 1MDB began operations, its debts were amounting to RM50 billion and the money trail is being investigated globally in the United States, Singapore, Switzerland and Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, former Batu Kawan Umno vice-chief Khairuddin Abu Hassan has challenged Najib to a debate on the ongoing 1MDB issue.

However, he said the debate should be held for one hour and telecast live.

Khairuddin said the matter could not be taken lightly because it had affected the economy, and issues such as the cost of living needed to be addressed.

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