

Finance minister says reports to NRC had the same facts provided to cabinet and public

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'I NEVER CONCEALED FACTS ON ECONOMY'

Finance minister says reports to NRC had the same facts provided to cabinet and public

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FINANCE Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz said he has never concealed any facts about the country's economy. He said this in response to a

claim by former prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin that Malaysia's financial situation was more dire than what was claimed by the federal government based on a recent report by Zafrul.

In a statement yesterday, Zafrul said the report submitted to the National Recovery Council (NRC) secretariat, which Muhyiddin chairs, was similar to reports submitted by other members of the cabinet, irrespective of which parties they were from.

"As the chairman of the council, he needs the reports to make the right decision in assisting the prime minister (Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob) to steer the coun-

try's recovery post-Covid-19 pandemic.

"In fact, the facts in the report are the same that I have repeated to the cabinet and the public.

"I never hide (any facts), be it through press statements (issued by the Finance Ministry), through my comments during any forums, in my parliamentary reply, as well as reports issued by agencies such as Bank Negara Malaysia, the Department of Statistic and others," said Tengku Zafrul in a Facebook post.

He said that was why the ministry had, since last year, spoken about the Fiscal Responsibility Act to prevent issues like Malaysia Development Bhd,



Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz says the focus is to drive the country's recovery to restore the livelihoods of the people. FILE PIC

Suria Strategic Energy Resources Sdn Bhd and others from recurring.

He included links to his articles on the government's intention to introduce the act.

At the launch of Perikatan Nasional's (PN) election machinery in Johor on Friday, Muhyiddin was quoted as saying that the country's situation was not as rosy as it seemed.

"I had asked the finance minister to deliver a report.

"I will leak it in time on the position of our national finances," Muhyiddin, who is PN chairman, said.

Tengku Zafrul said people generally were aware of the econom-

ic situation due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Therefore, he said, the focus was to drive the country's recovery to restore the livelihoods of the people.

He said this would be achieved through creating jobs, bringing investments into the country and helping businesses, as well as via other strategies in the JaminKerja and SemarakNiaga initiatives under the 2022 Budget.

"We are on the right path in which economic activities, be they from the macro, business or individual perspectives, are in the process of recovering based on several indicators such as employment market and others."