

# 'NEST-EGG' CHARGE BY MP

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## MAHATHIR TO TENGKU NOOR ASIAH: PROVE IT OR APOLOGISE

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today asked a Government back-bencher to substantiate her claim in the Dewan Rakyat that ministers and government officers were keeping "nest-eggs" overseas or withdraw the allegation.

He said Tengku Noor Asiah (BN-Tumpat) should also apologise if she could not prove her allegation.

Tengku Noor Asiah alleged during question time that many Ministers, Mentris Besar, Chief Ministers, state executive councillors and senior government officers were channelling their money to banks in Singapore and other countries since the government issued a directive for them to declare all their assets.

Dr. Mahathir said the allegation made by Tengku Noor Asiah is a serious one and the responsibility

of providing proof rested with her.

"If Tengku Noor Asiah cannot prove her allegation she must withdraw it and apologise," he added.

He hoped Tengku Noor Asiah would be free to answer questions from the authorities as that is the practice in such cases.

Dr. Mahathir stressed that the Government scrutinised and controlled the flow of money in the country although there is no direct curbs.

Replying to a supplementary question from Mr Chan Teck Chan (Ind - Kota Melaka), who alleged that some opposition party leaders also kept their money overseas, the Prime Minister also asked for proof.

Dr Mahathir also told the House that the Government would look into new ways to improve the financial management of government

departments at all levels.

He said this when answering Mr Chan who wanted to know the steps taken to overcome the weaknesses as stated in the Auditor General's report for 1977.

Dr Mahathir said the measures would cover accounting, administration, management and planning of government finance.

The government accounting system had been improved and modernised with the setting up of regional accounting office throughout the country, he said.