

BMF-MAHATHIR

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 11⁸² (BERNAMA) -- UMNO NEVER RECEIVED ANY CONTRIBUTION IN ANY FORM FROM GEORGE TAN, BMF OFFICIALS OR COMPANIES LINKED TO THEM, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID IN A LETTER TO BANK BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA BHD EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN TAN SRI HAJI BASIR ISMAIL.

IN THE LETTER, APPENDIXED TO THE WHITE PAPER ON THE BMF LOANS SCANDAL THAT WAS TABLED IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY, THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID HE HAD NO DEALINGS WHATSOEVER WITH GEORGE TAN, AS PRIME MINISTER, AS AN UMNO OFFICER OR IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHOSE NAME IS MENTIONED IN THE REPORT OF THE BMF COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, TOLD TAN SRI HAJI BASIR THAT IT WAS NORMAL FOR SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND GOVERNMENT-OWNED COMPANY EXECUTIVES TO MEET HIM.

+OFFICIALLY OR UNOFFICIALLY, THEY BRIEF ME ON THE WORK AND PROJECTS THAT COME UNDER THEIR CARE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID NORMALLY SUCH BRIEFINGS WERE GENERAL IN NATURE, AND HE SOMETIMES ISSUED DIRECTIVES TO THE OFFICERS BUT HE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE DIRECTIVES.

THE THEN GOVERNOR OF BANK NEGARA, TAN SRI ABDUL AZIZ TAHA, ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, HAD HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND BRIEFED HIM ON THE SITUATION.

TAN SRI ABDUL AZIZ ALSO WROTE TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON APRIL 2, 1983.

-- MORE (HERE PICKUP EARLIER ITEMS)

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D197

U EB118 AAE
BMF-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

ON THE BMF CASE, HE SAID HE FIRST KNEW OF THE MATTER WHEN IT WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS.

+FOLLOWING THIS, I WAS GIVEN A BRIEFING BY THE BANK BUMIPUTRA CHAIRMAN AND BANK NEGARA,+ HE SAID.

AT ONE OF THESE BRIEFINGS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, HE WAS INFORMED BY THE BBMB CHAIRMAN OF EFFORTS BY THE BANK TO RECOVER AS MUCH OF THE MONEY AS POSSIBLE FROM GEORGE TAN HIMSELF AND COMPANIES LINKED TO HIM, AND FROM THOSE WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR APPROVING THE LOANS.

+I AGREED TO THESE MEASURES. HOWEVER, I WAS NOT TOLD OF THE DETAILS AND WAS NOT IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE MEASURES,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE MATTER WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BANK'S EXECUTIVES. -- MORE

1042MST 11 03 86

D198

U EB119 AAE
BMF-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

+WHAT I CAN SAY IS THAT I BELIEVE THE BANK MANAGEMENT HAD ACTED IN THE INTEREST OF THE BANK IN THEIR EFFORTS TO RECOVER AS MUCH OF THE MONEY AS THEY CAN, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE.+

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK MUSA HITAM, IN HIS LETTER TO TAN SRI HAJI BASIR, SAID HE WAS ACQUAINTED WITH DR RAIS SANIMAN WHO HAD MET HIM ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

DATUK MUSA SAID DR RAIS, IN HIS CAPACITY AS AN OFFICER OF BBMB RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING SYNDICATED LOANS FOR THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT, HAD MET HIM SEVERAL TIMES.

THESE MEETINGS, HE SAID, WERE TO ALLOW DR RAIS TO BRIEF HIM AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON THE PROGRESS OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR OFFSHORE LOANS.

DATUK MUSA SAID THAT IN ONE OF THESE MEETINGS, DR RAIS HAD MENTIONED AND TRIED TO ELABORATE ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO HIS PRIVATE BUSINESS IN HONG KONG. -- MORE

1044MST 11 03 86

D199

U EB120 AAE
BMF-MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HOWEVER, DATUK MUSA SAID HE STOPPED DR RAIS AS THOSE MATTERS WERE NOT RELATED TO THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH PROVIDED A LENGTHY REPLY TO BBMB SECRETARY SYED HAMID ALBAR REGARDING THE APPEARANCE OF HIS NAME IN THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY'S REPORT.

HE TOUCHED ON THE PURCHASE OF THE LAP SENG BUILDING AND GAMMON HOUSE, BMF LOANS TO ASIAYEST AND SHERIDAN, PURCHASE OF TRAVELLERS CHEQUES, AND MAK FOON THAN'S ALLEGATIONS DURING THE LATTER'S TRIAL FOR THE MURDER OF JALIL IBRAHIM.

AMONG OTHERS WHO PROVIDED REPLIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPORT IS JOHOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK ABDUL AJIB AHMAD WHO SAID THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE STATE UMNO HAD NEVER APPOINTED ANY AGENT OR ANYONE TO ACT ON THEIR BEHALF IN RELATION TO THE JOHOR BAHARU CITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. -- BERNAMA

1046MST 11 03 86