

No complicity, say leaders

By TONY HERMON

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Top leaders, including Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Datuk Musa Hitam, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and captains of industry, have categorically denied any complicity in the \$2.6 billion Bumiputra Malaysia Finance (BMF) loans scandal.

At the same time, the Government has made it clear that it never had any intention to purchase the multi-million dollar Gammon House (now Bank of America Towers) in Hong Kong which shot Carrion to the limelight in the financial and property world.

The White Paper on the BMF Final Report, tabled in the Dewan Rakyat this afternoon, deals with letters (appendices to the paper) from the Prime Minister and others which were required by Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Bhd "to explain the occurrences of their names in connection with specific matters" contained in the report and special briefs of the committee of inquiry.

In his letter, Dr Mahathir says he first came to know of the BMF affair through the newspapers. He was subsequently briefed by Bank Bumiputra and Bank Negara.

"In one of the briefings, the Bank Bumiputra chairman informed me of the bank's measures

"I agreed with their actions. However, I was not informed of the details and was not involved in any way with implementing the measures. This was the responsibility of the bank executives.

"I wish to stress that I have no dealings with George Tan either as the Prime Minister, Umno official or in my own private capacity.

"As far as I know, Umno never received any contribution in any form from either George Tan, BMF officers or companies associated with them or from their intermediaries."

In the report, Datuk Musa's name is mentioned in connection with a meeting with Dr Rais Saniman, former BMF alternate director.

Datuk Musa in his letter says he knew Dr Rais because he had met him several times in his capacity as a bank official responsible for syndicated loans on behalf of the Malaysian Government.

"He briefed me several times at my office on the progressive stages of the foreign loans being arranged in my capacity as Deputy Prime Minister."

In one of the meetings, Dr Rais tried to elaborate on personal and business matters in Hong Kong.

"But I stopped him because it had nothing to do with our official tasks. I do not know anything more than that."

- THE CONCERTED PLAN
- THE GRAND MARINE SCHEME
ON PAGE 8
- TENGKU RAZALEIGH'S DENIAL
- WHAT RAIS TOLD COMMITTEE
- PAYMENTS AND BENEFITS
ON PAGE 9
- GIFTS
- CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS
- SUITS AGAINST BMF FOUR
- SEVEN WRITS ALLOWED TO LAPSE
ON PAGE 10
- FLOW OF FUNDS
- JALIL'S UNFINISHED LETTER
ON PAGE 11
- EDITORIAL: P12

to recover as much money as possible from George Tan (the Carrion boss) personally, his associated companies and from those responsible for approving the loans.

★ FROM PAGE ONE

the period of rising property prices in Hong Kong.

Tengku Razaleigh informed him that the Malaysian Government was thinking of buying an office building in or near the central district of Hong Kong to house the Malaysian High Commission and Tourist Development Corporation among others.

"He was seeking my views as to whether the building called Lap Heng Building in Hennessy Road was worth a certain price.

"As this conversation took place some years ago, I cannot remember the exact figure mentioned to me by Tengku Razaleigh. It might have been the figure of 250 million mentioned. I remember that whatever figure was mentioned was in terms of Hong Kong dollars.

"I recall telling him during the conversation that I thought this was about the market price."

Encik Alias Ahmad, special assistant to Tengku Razaleigh, refers to a telex sent by Ibrahim Jaffar (general manager of BMF) to (former) BMF chairman Lorrain Esme Osman in the final report and special brief.

He says: "I deny telling Ibrahim Jaffar about the telephone conversation between Mr Kuok and the Minister (Tengku Razaleigh)."

The conversation concerned Lap Heng building and not Gammon House.

Johore Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ajib Ahmad stresses that neither the Johore Government nor the Johore Umno liaison committee appointed any agent or for that matter anybody else to act for them to undertake a "Johore Baru City Development" project.

The briefs contain a letter from George Tan to Dr Rais in which he (Tan) says that Carrion

Tengku Razaleigh deals at length — the longest letter — with allegations, remarks, assumptions made against him by some people in their interviews with the committee of inquiry and also Press reports.

He says the allegations are false and "I welcome this opportunity to state the truth because I was not given the opportunity to give an explanation earlier although it is not necessary for me to reply or explain several matters as the allegations had nothing to do with me." (See Page 9 for full report).

Sugar king Robert Kuok says: "I wish to state categorically and emphatically that I have never been consulted by anyone about the acquisition of Gammon House nor its purported resale to the Malaysian Government."

He describes as "pure fabrication" the reference made to him in the report where it is alleged he gave an opinion that Gammon House was worth "\$250 million" (presumably US\$250 million or about M\$612.5 million).

He explains that a few years ago, he received a telephone call from Tengku Razaleigh who was visiting the British colony. This was during

↓ TURN TO P9 COL 3