

# Dr M clarifies position

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he has nothing to do with Carrian Investments Ltd chairman George Tan, either as Prime Minister, an Umno official or in his personal capacity.

In his letter attached as an appendix in the White Paper tabled in Parliament, Dr Mahathir declared at the outset that he only became aware of the Bumiputra Malaysia Finance loans through Press reports. He said Umno had never received any donations from George Tan.

As far as he knew, the party had not received donations in whatever form either from George Tan himself or from officials of BMF or companies associated with them.

Dr Mahathir's name is

mentioned in the report of the BMF committee of inquiry. Clarifying his position, Dr Mahathir said it was normal for government officials or officials of companies owned by the government to meet him.

They usually briefed him on the progress of projects under their supervision either officially or personally.

After learning of the BMF loans through newspaper reports, Dr Mahathir was given a general briefing by the chairman of BMF's holding company, Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Bhd, and by the central bank.

In one of these briefings, the chairman of Bank Bumiputra informed the Prime Minister of measures the bank

had formulated to recoup as much of the loans as possible from George Tan and companies linked to him and from the people who were responsible for authorising the loans.

"I agreed with the measures," Dr Mahathir said, but added that he was not informed of details and was not involved in any way whatsoever in the execution of these measures.

"That is up to the bank's executive. It is also their responsibility. What I can say is that the bank's management had acted in the interest of the bank to try to recover as much as possible of the sums loaned out after having taken various considerations in the case."