

# BMF: PM CLARIFIES

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By P.K. KATHARASON

**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has stressed that he has no dealings with Carrion boss George Tan, and Umno has never received any contributions from the Carrion Group.**

"I wish to emphasise that I did not have any dealings with George Tan whether as Prime Minister, Umno official or in my personal capacity," Dr Mahathir said in his letter which was reproduced in the White Paper on the BMF loans scandal.

"As far as I know, Umno Malav-

sia never received any contributions in any form from George Tan, BMF officials or companies linked with them or anyone of them."

Dr Mahathir's letter dated Feb 25 to Bank Bumiputra chairman Tan Sri Haji Basir Ismail appeared as an appendix in the White Paper together with those of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam and Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

The White Paper also reproduced the replies of Johore Mentri Besar Datuk Abdul Ajib Ahmad, Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Thong Yaw Hong, Tengku Razaleigh's special aide Alias Ahmad, Sugar King and tycoon Robert Kuok, Fleet Group chairman Datuk Mohamed Desa Pachi, lawyers Mr J. J. Puthucheary, Mr K. Ananthan and Tan Sri C. Selvarajah and former Fleet Group chairman Datuk Junus Sudin.

They were replying to Bank Bumiputra which had informed them that their names were mentioned in the 1,075-page Final Report of the committee comprising Auditor-General Tan Sri Ahmad Noordin Haji Zakaria, corporate lawyer Chooi Mun Sou and accountant Ramli Ibrahim.

The 80-page White Paper and appendix, tabled in the Dewan Rakyat today, was to explain the Government's position and the steps it had taken in connection with the BMF \$2.5 billion loans scandal.

It was also to give certain people named in the Final Report an opportunity to explain their position.

In the Final Report, the Committee had touched on briefings which former Bank Bumiputra chairman Dr Nawawi Mat Awin and former Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Taha gave to Dr Mahathir in 1982 and 1983.

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# I'm not involved, says Razaleigh

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Dr Mahathir had said in his letter that it was normal for senior government officials and government-owned company executives to meet him.

"Normally, such briefings are general in nature, and I sometimes issue directives to the officers but I am not involved in the actual implementation of those directives.

"Officially or unofficially, they brief me on the work and projects that come under their care," he added. *(Full text of letter on Page VIII of pullout)*

Datuk Musa, in his letter dated Feb 18, stated that he only met former BMF executive Dr Rais Saniman in his official capacity.

He also said that during one of these meetings, Dr Rais mentioned and tried to give details of his per-

sonal business matters in Hong Kong.

"But I cut him short from going any further because the matter did not have any relation at all with our official duties," said Datuk Musa who added that he did not know of anything more about the matter.

In the Final Report, Dr Rais mentioned Datuk Musa's name in the context of the sale of Grand Marine Holdings by George Tan.

Dr Rais also said that he met the Committee to explain the rumours which were "intensely" circulated during the last Umno general assembly that Datuk Musa had something to do with Grand Marine.

The explanation Dr Rais gave then was that George Tan had offered to sell the controlling interest in Grand Marine to the Malaysian Government.

Dr Rais said that he met George Tan after meeting Datuk Musa but added that the two men did not meet each other.

The Final Report also quotes former BMF general manager Ibrahim Jaafar as saying that Dr Rais was acting on behalf of a certain Malaysian Cabinet Minister whom he (Encik Ibrahim) later identified as the Deputy Prime Minister. *(Full text of Datuk Musa's reply on Page VIII of pullout)*

In his letter dated Feb 8, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh denied the various allegations made in the Final Report.

He said he did not know about or was not involved in the efforts by the Malaysian Government to buy Gammon House, a building in Hong Kong, in 1980.

He described the allegation as "slandrous and

possibly prompted by ulterior motives."

Tengku Razaleigh, who was Finance Minister when the BMF loans scandal came out into the open, said he had never at anytime appointed any individuals to act as agents for the Government in the purchase of property in Hong Kong.

On the purchase of US travellers cheques for him in Hong Kong, Tengku Razaleigh said he had asked his secretary to buy them when he stopped over in Hong Kong en route to an international conference.

"He said he needed the travellers cheques as he would go on leave after the meeting and would incur more expenses on the subsequent trips.

The Final Report said that HK\$86,850 had been given out by Knife and Dagger or Silver Present (two subsidiaries of the

Carrian Group) to buy the travellers cheques for Tengku Razaleigh.

Tengku Razaleigh said his secretary had sought the assistance of Datuk Hashim Shamsuddin, then a banker and who was in Hong Kong, to buy the travellers cheques. *(Full text of Tengku Razaleigh's letter on Page VIII of pullout)*

Tengku Razaleigh, one of the first directors of BMF, also enclosed a press statement he had made on May 3, 1984, in reply to Mak Foon Than's allegation that he had acted on behalf of Tengku Razaleigh and other Cabinet Ministers to collect money from businessmen in Hong Kong.

Mak was found guilty of murdering BMF assistant general manager Jalil Ibrahim in Hong Kong on July 18, 1983, and had made the allegation during his trial.