

Umno supreme council member lied: Rafidah

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KANGAR, Fri. — Wanita Umno leader Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz today expressed regret that a member of the Umno supreme council could accuse the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad of misusing his position.

According to her, the member had alleged that the Prime Minister had directed Bank Bumiputra chairman Tan Sri Bashir Ismail to approve a \$200 million loan to a Chinese businessman.

The allegation, she added, was uttered in front of Umno Wanita Executive Councillors recently.

Datin Paduka Rafidah was not at the meeting but she said she was immediately informed of the matter

by one of the councillors.

"I immediately contacted Tan Sri Haji Bashir to ascertain the allegation and the bank chairman strongly denied that Dr Mahathir had directed him to do so."

'Couldn't believe'

The story was published in a Bahasa Malaysia tabloid.

Datin Paduka Rafidah said: "I could not believe that the supreme council member could tell such a blatant lie in order to be popular."

She said she had served under two Prime Ministers but had never come across any instance when either had misused his position for his own personal interest.