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IPOH, APRIL 10 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ASKED QUARTERS CLAIMING HE HAS BUSINESS INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT SO HE CAN TAKE THE FOLLOW-UP ACTION.

HE ALSO CHALLENGED THEM TO FACE HIM AND MAKE THE ALLEGATIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WHEN ASKED BY REPORTERS TO COMMENT ON SUCH CLAIMS BY CERTAIN QUARTERS.

ON ALLEGATIONS OF HIM BEING DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE BANK BUMIPUTRA LOAN TO MAMINCO, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE LOAN WAS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND NOT BY HIM.

HE ALSO ASKED THOSE ALLEGING FINANCE MINISTER DAIM ZAINUDDIN LOST \$1 BILLION IN HIS DEALINGS IN FLEET GROUP BUSINESS TO WRITE TO HIM (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR) EXPLAINING THE ALLEGATIONS. -- MORE
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ASKED WHETHER HE WAS AWARE SOME UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS DID NOT AGREE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICIES, HE SAID. +THE GOVERNMENT IS THE GOVERNMENT AND MT (SUPREME COUNCIL) IS THE MT.+

+THE MT HAD NEVER SAID IT DID NOT (AGREE) AND NO QUARTER IN SUPREME COUNCIL MEETINGS HAD EVER SAID THEY DID NOT AGREE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICIES,+ HE SAID.

ON DELEGATES SUPPORT FOR HIM, THE PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT SAID +WAIT FOR APRIL 24 AND SEE.+ -- BERNAMA
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