

DOUBT OVER BMMF REPORT

10 OCT 1990

KUANTAN, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he now doubts the impartiality of the report submitted by the committee of inquiry into the Bumi-putra Malaysia Finance loans scandal.

The Prime Minister said the Government was concerned whether former Auditor-General Tan Sri Ahmad Noordin Zakaria's present stand in Semangat 46 was related to the report his three-man committee had put forward.

(Tan Sri Ahmad Noordin headed the committee which investigated the \$2.4 billion BMMF loans scandal.)

"If the report did not blame (then Finance Minister) Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, then we are concerned whether Tan Sri Ahmad Noordin's present stand in Semangat has anything to do with the report," he added.

He was responding to a statement made by former BMMF chairman Lorrain Esme Osman

in London yesterday that Tengku Razaleigh and former BMMF general manager Ibrahim Jaafar were responsible for the scandal.

Lorrain said that Tengku Razaleigh was "more responsible than anyone else" for what happened to BMMF and Carrian and had in return "received millions of dollars worth of financial donations" from Carrian chairman George Tan to support his political ambitions.

He also said that Tengku Razaleigh was now fighting to lead the Government of Malaysia "and although once he was one of my closest friends, I do not believe that he deserves or should hold such an exalted position."

In the statement, Lorrain accused Tengku Razaleigh and Ibrahim of being responsible for his imprisonment, "one by his lies, the other by both his silence and his lies."

Lorrain, 60, who has been in remand in London since December 1985, is fighting his extradition from London to Hong Kong to face 42 fraud and bribery charges relating to the \$2.5 billion BMMF loans scandal.

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Razaleigh:
Set up
royal panel
of inquiry

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He is wanted to stand trial in Hong Kong with former Carrian boss George Tan on charges involving a multi-billion dollar loan scheme while he was BMMF chairman.

The loans were made between 1979 and 1983 by BMMF to the Carrian group which collapsed in 1983.

Tengku Razaleigh, in a press release today, called for the setting up of a royal commission of inquiry to investigate the BMMF affair.

He said that the commission should be headed by credible and independent personalities to clear his name and others.

He said that Lorrain's allegation was part of a conspiracy to discredit him. "How could a statement be issued from a high security prison in Brixton by a prisoner who has long held his silence this far?"

He also said Dr Mahathir should explain why no one in Malaysia had been prosecuted in connection with the scandal.

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