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Mahathir-allegations 3 Kuala Lumpur '''

+I don't know whether Ananda Krishnan was guarantor or not but Petronas' acquisition of a majority stake in Seri Kuda is purely a commercial consideration, + he said.

The turf club land was sold following a government directive that the race course there be taken out of the city centre as it was causing traffic congestion, he said.

As the club needed money to build a new race course, it decided to sell off the 38.88-hectare land at Jalan Ampang.

The Prime Minister said the government had made a condition to Seri Kuda that more than 50 per cent of its land must be turned into a public park.

At the outset of his hour-long speech, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir spoke at length on the Bumiputra Malaysia Finance Limited-(BMF) scandal to rebutt. Encik Lim's suggestions that he and former BMF chairman Lorrain Esme Osman were close friends when they were in FIMA. -- more.

♥18/07/20-28MST

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Mahathir-allegations 4 Kuala Lumpur '''

+I admit that Lorrain was FIMA's director when I was the chairman.. As far as I know, at that time Lorrain had not committed any offence.

+Is it that when one becomes a criminal when he gets older, he is.. already guilty before that?,+ said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.

He said Encik Lim was trying to use the +guilt by association+ tactic as he (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir) knew and used to work with Lorrain but Encik Lim was reluctant to highlight his +new friend+ who was very **close** to Lorrain when Lorrain was accused of wrongdoing.

Tracing back BMF's history, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Berhad (BBMB) chairman at that time was Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Lorrain was one of the signatories of the memorandum which incorporated BMF.

+If the honourable member from Tanjong can insinuate and make malicious allegations because Lorrain and I used to sit together, why didn't he talk about his close friend's association with Lorrain during functions which raised so many question marks at the time of the BMF scandal?,+ he said -- more

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Mahathir-allegations 5 Kuala Lumpur' "

Tengku Razaleigh, who is Member of Parliament for Gua Musang and a former Finance Minister, is now leader of Parti Semangat 46 which formed a pact with the DAP against the Barisan Nasional in the last general election.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir questioned why Encik Lim did not repeat his past accusations about the BMF scandal this time around whereas his views on the matter were in the Dewan Rakyat's +hansards+ in 1984..

+Is it that because his new friend is now his staunch supporter and has made way for him to be opposition leader, the honourable member has now forgiven and pardoned him?.

+Why is that in the last general election, the DAP leader did not at all mention the RMF scandal in his campaign?+ said the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government had set up a committee of inquiry to investigate into the RMF scandal but . its report was unreliable and most probably bias.

+We now know that two of three committee members were not actually independent but were supporters of the opposition and the former RBMB chairman,+ he said.-- Bernama

♥18/07/21-07MST