

CNS4430

R GE 18-07 00183 EF053

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Mahathir - Umno

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 18 (Bernama)--Umno is not involved in shares trading but its members are free to do business, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

+If anyone known to the former Finance Minister buys shares, this does not mean Umno is buying shares, + he said when winding up the debate on the motion on the Sixth Malaysia Plan in the Dewan Rakyat.

Referring to the DAP member for Tanjung, Encik Lim Kit Siang, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he believed that many known to the Opposition Leader also bought and sold shares.

+But my friends and I haven't forgotten the allegation by the honourable member that a man named Datuk Halim is the front man for Umno, + he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno President, said he was not gullible to the extent of allowing someone else to be the front man and own \$1 billion of Umno money if indeed Umno had that much money. -- more

♥18/07/18-16MST

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R GE 18-07 00226 EF054

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Mahathir - Umno 2 Kuala Lumpur

+I sleep soundly every night because I have no fear of Umno's money being lost, as no Umno money is involved. I admit that if \$1 billion of Umno money were to be involved I will not be able to sleep soundly, + he said.

He said Umno had on many occasions been cheated and much of Umno's money was lost because people entrusted to take charge of the money suddenly came round and said that the party had no money at all.

Because of the actions of people who wanted to destroy Umno, Umno's assets were now in the hands of the Public Trustee and cannot be managed to bring benefit to Umno members, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

+Before, I believed that Umno members will always love Umno and will not harm the party. But now I realise that there are people who only wish to preserve Umno if the party is owned by them. In view of this I do not easily believe people, + he said.

Encik Lim, who rose nearly 20 times in the course of the Prime Minister's hour-long speech to seek clarification, asked Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir if he could categorically state that Umno was not involved in any company. -- more

♥18/07/18-22MST

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Mahathir - Umno 3 Kuala Lumpur

+I categorically state Umno has no nominee companies but Umno members and those who support Umno are involved in business, + Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

Earlier, the Prime Minister said that in the world of stock trading, millions of ringgit worth of shares changed hands daily and there were people who borrowed from banks nearly all the money needed to buy shares and engage in share swaps.

It was not unusual for someone to buy shares beyond his means because the shares could be charged to banks and redeemed when the need arose, he added. -- Bernama

♥18/07/18-21MST