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## Brother Raduan backs Selangor MB's statement

Tengku Sariffuddin

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Bridgecon Berhad executive chairman Datuk Raduan Muhammad Taib today said the money equivalent to RM2.37 million had been given to his brother, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad, to purchase property on the Gold Coast, near Brisbane, and that it belonged to him and two other brothers.

Raduan said AS\$1 million (RM1.7 million) and RM700,000 had been given to Muhammad after the brothers had entrusted him with the transaction.

"It (Muhammad's statement) is true. We do not want this matter to be over publicised because as it is sub judice.

"We have given our statements to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad via a letter (delivered by Muhammad)," he said during Dr Mahathir's visit to the Mines Resort City.

Bridgecon and Fujita are involved in the construction of the 10-storey Sapura building at the resort city.

Raduan was asked to comment on the statement made by Muhammad after he was charged in Brisbane magistrate's court on Dec 23 for failing to declare the money at Brisbane airport where he was enroute to New Zealand.

Muhammad told a Press conference on Dec 30 that the money belonged to his three brothers - Raduan, Datuk Othman and Hasan - who wanted to buy property for their children who would be studying in Australia.

The Menteri Besar said the Sale and Purchase agreement could not be finalised because Raduan and Othman had not joined him on the trip as their children were getting married.

It was then decided to bring the money back to Malaysia, which led to Muhammad being stopped at the airport and charged in court.

Raduan said he and his brothers would co-operate with the Anti-Corruption Agency and other authorities in their investigations on Muhammad.

However, he said they had not been contacted by the authorities.

Asked whether Raduan and his two brothers had the financial means to purchase the property, Raduan said the Press could look into his corporate background.

"There is no need for me to disclose (this). I do not want to comment.

"I was with SAP Holdings Berhad (previously Shah Alam Properties Berhad). As the case is pending in Australia we are advised that it is sub judice.

"We confirm the statement given by (Tan Sri) Muhammad," he said.

Raduan, who is a Universiti Sains Malaysia graduate, had worked in the Government and private sectors before he joined Shah Alam Properties Berhad as its deputy general manager (operations) in 1987.

He became managing director when the company was listed and changed its name to SAP Holdings Berhad but resigned on Nov 30.

He became Bridgecon executive chairman on Dec 1 after he became the largest shareholder.

Raduan is also the deputy president of Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Berhad.

Asked how he and his brothers had raised the money for the purchase of the property, he said the matter "could be explained" but he could not expand any further as he feared that it was sub judice.

Raduan declined to comment on why the brothers had given S\$1 million (RM1.76 million), or whether a major portion of the money had belonged to him as he was the most successful of the brothers.

"The money belonged to the three of us (Raduan, Othman and Hasan)."  
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