

18 JUN 1998

Umno-Zahid (Assets)

I HAVE DECLARED NY ASSETS TO MAHATHIR, SAYS ZAHID

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said today he had declared his assets to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad a month after being elected to the post.

"Although I don't hold a post in the government, I voluntarily declared my assets to the PM," he told reporters at the close of the Umno Youth assembly.

He was responding to a statement by the Malaysian Youth Council president Datuk Suhaimi Ibrahim that Zahid should declare his assets to avoid suspicions against him.

Asked if he was willing to announce his assets to the Umno delegates, Zahid said: "I've have already declared to the PM, and the PM did not make any comments. At that time the assets were worth more, now they have come down."

He said he was a businessman and the assets he owned were not stolen or ill-gotten.

Asked if his success in the business field was not achieved through cronism, Zahid said he could prove that he had not obtained even a single privitisation project for himself.

"I didn't get any tenders directly from the government and I've not gained anything from my postion as Bank Simpanan Nasional chairman," he said.

On the problems faced by Sime Bank Bhd, Zahid said he questioned the bank's prudence in giving out credit facilities.

"The single customer limit was ignored, collaterals for loans were inadequate....there was no collateral at all for loans of tens and hundreds of millions of ringgit," he said.

Zahid said he had evidence to back his claim that Sime Bank had approved loans without adhering to banking guidelines.

"I have the proof. When the time comes I will expose it," he added.

-- BERNAMA

MAM AD SK