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Govt will investigate, says PM

Fadzil Ghazali

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said the Government will investigate allegations by Datuk Abdul Murad Khalid about RM3 billion worth "master accounts" owned by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. Dr Mahathir said the Government needs to initiate its own investigation because the allegation involved mismanagement of public funds. Murad, a former Bank Negara assistant governor, exposed the existence of such accounts in a statutory declaration distributed at a Press conference on Thursday.

He alleged that when Anwar was Finance Minister he had insisted that the Washington-based Asia Pacific Policy Centre (APPC) manage Bank Negara's reserves of RM50 billion and the Employees Provident Fund in return for services provided to him by the APPC.

"I was surprised. I don't know how he could do this. Even if the amount is not RM3 billion, there must have been some funds. Otherwise a person would not have disclosed this."

Asked whether the funds are aimed at opposing the Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir said it would have seem to be that way because the funds are meant to make Anwar popular.

"What I know for sure is that the APPC was used to give lectures. Even though it is called Asia Pacific, its only activity is in Malaysia," he added.

To a question whether Murad's confession will affect Bank Negara's credibility, he said: "I think when you have a Finance Minister who is unscrupulous, then this kind of things can happen."

Asked whether he would expect more revelations, Dr Mahathir said, "I don't know. I was surprised to have this revelation. I think one day's shock is enough."

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