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Revelations not at directive of party: PM

UMNO president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says Umno leaders who expose their dealings with Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim are doing so not at the party leadership's directive.

"If it was a party directive we would have asked them to do so a long time ago, but many people, after seeing (former assistant Bank Negara governor Datuk Abdul) Murad Khalid's bravery, are also brave now," he said. At a press conference after visiting Mimos Bhd at Technology Park Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Dr Mahathir was asked if the revelations by Umno members are of their own free will or at the party's directive.

Murad last Thursday alleged that Anwar had amassed RM3 billion when he was the deputy prime minister and finance minister.

Johor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Ghani Othman said in Johor at the weekend that he will expose certain dealings involving Anwar at the right time.

Dr Mahathir said for Umno leaders one unsolved mystery is Tun Ghafar Baba who was very popular in Sabah, yet when he was challenged by Anwar for the Umno deputy president's post, no divisions in Sabah nominated him. "That has always been a mystery to me. Many people say this is because of money politics, but the people (involved) don't want to tell. Just like anybody who has been sodomised, they don't go around telling everybody," he said.

Murad had said he knew of at least 20 master accounts being set up by Anwar's "cronies" and that he was instructed to implement corporate exercises in favour of the latter's friends. The operator of each master account was unaware of the existence of the other accounts, he had claimed, adding that he had also helped clear the debts of certain people.

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