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Sabbaruddin-Deposit

SABBARUDDIN DENIES HAVING US\$8.5 MILLION FIXED DEPOSIT OVERSEAS

TEMERLOH, April 25 (Bernama) -- Umno secretary general Datuk Seri Sabbaruddin Chik today denied a report of having a fixed deposit of US\$8.5 million in a bank overseas.

"If it's true that I have that much money, I'll donate it to the person who wrote the news," he said, commenting on the report posted on a reformasi homepage on the Internet.

Speaking to reporters after opening the 8th Mentakab-Temerloh national relay here, Sabbaruddin who is Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister said Malaysians, and Umno members in particular, should not believe in reports claiming that Umno leaders had substantial money stashed overseas.

These were lies and the work of certain people out to discredit Umno and its leadership, he said.

He said cabinet members had already been quizzed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who wanted to make sure that they did not keep money overseas.

In PONTIAN, Umno Youth assistant treasurer Mokhzani Mahathir also denied a report on the same homepage, claiming that his father and Umno president Dr Mahathir wanted Datuk Hishamuddin Tun Hussein kicked out as acting Umno Youth leader and replaced by him.

He said he had no intention of becoming Umno Youth chief and that Hishamuddin was the most eligible candidate.

"Hishamuddin is the most eligible and the right choice to head the Umno Youth leadership for now and in future," he told Bernama after opening the delegates meeting of Pontian Umno Youth last night.

Mokhzani said he and Hishamuddin were friends since childhood and "let me make it clear...I will not politicise my friendship with Hishamuddin."

He said his stance was that Hishamuddin was acting Youth leader at the national level and he, an Exco member and a division youth chief.

He said he would continue to support and carry out programmes to strengthen the party machinery.

"We are now facing those outside Umno. As such those within Umno shouldn't question our sincerity especially between Datuk Hishamuddin and I," he said.

--BERNAMA

ZD RAM ABG