

## **Mahathir: Has IRB looked into PM's accounts?**

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The Inland Revenue Board (IRB) has been asked to disclose whether it probed allegations that RM2.6 billion was transferred into Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's bank accounts.

This question was posed by former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad on his blog today, stressing that he had been subjected to such a probe before.

For the 1964 and 1969 general election, Mahathir said Umno headquarters had provided him RM20,000 to be distributed to election candidates.

"I didn't want to hold RM20,000 in cash, so I deposited it in my account and wrote checks for the election committees.

"This money was not from donors but from Umno and it was used by (Umno) divisions for their candidate.

"Once I was removed from the party in 1970, the IRB raided my house and clinic. They found the cheque stubs and claimed that I did not report my income," he said.

This resulted in a fine of RM130,000, which he paid through installments until the time he was deputy prime minister.

"There is a big difference between RM20,000 which I received compared to the US\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) which was said to have made its way into Najib's personal accounts," said Mahathir.

### **Check my accounts**

Mahathir said that at present, there appears to be efforts to put a positive spin on the allegation, that the funds is for the general election campaign.

"I have been accused of doing the same. This allegation is baseless and is nothing more than slander," said Mahathir.

During his time as Umno president, the party had three trustees and Mahathir was among them.

"The trustees would have an account. All donations, particularly for elections, are deposited into this account..

"The trustees were also named as equity holders and property owners on behalf of Umno," he said.

Upon stepping down as Umno president, Mahathir said everything he had held in trust - over RM200 million in cash along with equity and property worth RM1.2 billion - was passed to his successor Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Mahathir stressed that no donations for Umno ever entered his personal bank accounts.

"I am ready to have my accounts... checked by those with no interest to verify if what I say is true," said Mahathir.

BN strategic communications director Abdul Rahman Dahlan had claimed there was no need to investigate the source of the money in Najib's bank account and that the latter was allowed to serve as a trustee for Umno.

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