

Dr M and ex-MCA No 2 deny receiving UKSB money – reports

Malaysiakini

26 July 2022

Bernamea

Former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad and former transport minister Chan Kong Choy have denied receiving political funding from Ultra Kirana Sdn Bhd (UKSB).

This followed claims by a witness in the corruption trial of former deputy prime minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Mahathir told reporters in Langkawi yesterday that the accuser should show proof to back his claims.

He gave an example of how the Pakatan Harapan administration showed the flow of money to Najib Abdul Razak's bank accounts.

"We showed evidence that Najib held the money. He signed checks (and used the money). There are (evidence from the) bank accounts.

"Go check my bank accounts. No problem," he said, according to Sinar Harian.

He noted that the accuser said the money was paid to a third party, which implied could also be a lie.

"If he paid someone else and that someone else said he will give the money to me. That could be, but I didn't get any money," he said.

Yesterday, former UKSB administrative manager David Tan Siong Sun told the Shah Alam High Court that the company's secret ledger recorded payments of RM2.6 million to Mahathir through his nephew.

Tan said this when crossed examined by the defence team of Zahid, who is the Umno president. Zahid was on trial for receiving bribes from UKSB.

Apart from Mahathir, Zahid's lawyer also quizzed Tan on other entries in the ledger where Chan, among others, was accused of being paid by UKSB.

According to The Star, Chan denied having received RM7.8 million from UKSB. Chan was transport minister between 2003 and 2008.

"No such money was given to me as political funding or to me personally," he

said.

Like Mahathir and others accused of receiving UKSB funds, Chan said he was ready to be investigated by the authorities.

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Zahid is facing 40 corruption charges for allegedly receiving kickbacks from UKSB, which is a contractor for the government's Foreign Visa System (VLN).

Mahathir, Chan, Umno information chief Shahril Hamdan, and former MCA secretary-general Ong Ka Chuan were the latest to be implicated in the trial when Tan and other UKSB staff were quizzed about the company's ledgers.

Other politicians previously named in the ledger were Bersatu president Muhyiddin Yassin, Warisan president Shafie Apdal, Parti Cinta Sabah president Anifah Aman, and Umno figures Hishammuddin Hussein, Khairy Jamaluddin, and Reezal Merican Naina Merican.

The MACC said last month it would investigate those implicated in the ledger.

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