

Dr M: Where does 'the amazing liar' get his facts and figures?

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Dr Mahathir Mohamad has lashed out at Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim for suggesting that his sons return their wealth to the government if it was obtained through dubious or illegitimate means.

Labelling Anwar “the amazing liar”, the former prime minister took aim at his successor’s claim that his sons Mokhzani and Mirzan are worth “RM1.2 billion and RM4 billion”.

“Where does he get all these figures and statements?” Mahathir asked in a social media post, asserting that he had already explained the source of his wealth.

He cited MACC chief commissioner Azam Baki’s statement that Mokhzani had declared assets of approximately RM1 billion, while Mirzan declared RM246.2 million.

“And Azam stated that MACC was satisfied with the declaration made by Mokhzani and Mirzan as given above. Was Azam satisfied without knowing the

sources of this wealth?

“The MACC questioned my sons many times, each time for many hours. Did MACC ask about the sources of the wealth as declared?” he added.

Mahathir clarified that the figures referred to the value of assets - not cash - and that they were made up of properties, shares, liabilities, and other holdings accumulated over two decades of business activity. Some of these assets had also appreciated in value.

“The MACC did not state that the sources are ‘unclear or illegitimate’. The MACC and Azam cannot state they are satisfied ‘if the declarations are unclear or illegitimate’.

“Why should I or my sons admit to something that is not true. I or my sons never declared we own the RM1.2 billion or RM4 billion,” he stressed.

He then questioned whether Anwar was demanding his family sell their assets and surrender the proceeds to the government.

“On what ground is he making this demand?” he asked.

Anwar's claim

In an interview with Indonesian journalist Najwa Shihab in Jakarta last week, Anwar said the “extraordinary wealth” amassed by Mahathir’s sons raised serious concerns, especially given the large sums involved.

"I don't make baseless accusations against anyone. I've handed the matter over to the MACC.

“But if they themselves admit - not as an accusation but as a declaration - that 'I (Mahathir) or my son own RM1.2 billion, and another one RM4 billion', then the money must be returned.

"You must pay it back, unless you can clearly explain where the funds came from," he said.

Anwar also criticised the opposition for defending individuals accused of amassing questionable wealth, saying it contradicted their supposed commitment to fighting corruption.

Responding to the PAS-organised rally on July 26, where he was one of the speakers, Mahathir said the protest was not about supporting him or his sons.

“The people are asking Anwar to step down. They don’t want him because his being PM has caused a lot of misery among the people,” he charged.

Mahathir challenged Anwar to dissolve Parliament and call for a general election if he truly believed the public still supported him.

“It is not the MPs who demonstrated. So, a motion in Parliament is irrelevant,” he said, referring to Anwar’s challenge for the opposition to table a no-confidence motion.

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