

**Admit That You Met Me: Dr M
Malaysianmirror.com
February 15, 2011**

SHAH ALAM -- Former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said the opposition leaders who he met over 20 years ago before they were arrested under Ops Lalang in 1987 should tell the truth and admit that they had met him.

"Well it happened over 20 years ago. I remember distinctly meeting them, I can't remember the faces of those people. I certainly remember that Karpal (Singh) was not one of them and I think (Lim) Kit Siang is one of them, " he told reporters after launching the Palestinian Cultural Organisation Malaysia (PCOM) here.

He said this when responding to a reporter's question whether he would take up the challenge thrown by DAP chairman Karpal Singh to name the opposition members whom he met prior to Ops Lalang.

Dr Mahathir said if the opposition leaders were truthful and not prone to telling lies, he thought that they should admit that he met them prior to the operation.

He said the opposition leaders had appealed to him to prevent their arrest under the Internal Security Act (ISA) then and that it was the reason he had met them, to ensure them that they would not be arrested.

Dr Mahathir said:"It is embarassing for me after ensuring them that they would not be arrested but they were arrested by the police and of course I had to sign the detention order."

Touching on news reports that his former deputy, Anwar Ibrahim had business operations based in the United States, Dr Mahathir said:"That we know but to expose it we must have the evidence."

"He is rich not poor and that is why he can go here and there and tell nonsensical stories to tarnish my name."

"Maybe after this I will receive a lawyer's letter from Anwar threatening to sue me to keep my mouth shut," Dr Mahathir said.

Asked whether Sarawak Chief Minister Abdul Taib Mahmud should step down before or after the state election, Dr Mahathir said:"It's up to the people of Sarawak to decide, I think they know best whether he should step down or not."

However, Dr Mahathir said if Taib were to step down there should be somebody to replace him, not like former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who stepped down without a good succession plan.

(Bernama)

Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/52014>