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Former PM is being selective, says blogger

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KUALA LUMPUR: Blogger Stephen Doss (www.stephendoss.blogspot.com), who had raised questions about Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's son-in-law's involvement in a company which was awarded a monopoly over the Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya monorail, has rebutted comments made by the former prime minister to defend himself.

Doss, a former student activist, said when Dr Mahathir first raised the issue of Rapid-KL in his blog on June 10, he did not reveal that his son-in-law was involved in MTrans, a company which provided bus-

es to Rapid KL.

Doss said he raised "a number of questions for him (Mahathir) in relation to the role of his son-in-law and himself as prime minister at the material time".

"I am glad that he has now admitted to his role in the awarding of a monopoly over the Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya monorail projects to MTrans when his son-in-law was involved with the said company.

"If the shoe was on the other foot, the accusations and allegations would be endless," Doss wrote.

"It is ironic that he uses the words 'my son-in-law so happens to be in the company'. Imagine Dr Mahathir keeping quiet and accepting an explanation like this from Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi."

Doss accused Dr Mahathir of "again being selective in his latest posting in what he reveals and highlights".

"Why is Dr Mahathir only focusing on the buses awarded by Rapid Penang when Rapid Penang and Rapid KL are both operated by the same company (MTrans)?"

"Why does he point out that

Scomi got 70 out of 150 buses? Why doesn't he highlight the fact that Rapid KL awarded (a contract to build and supply) 1,200 buses in KL and 150 in Penang?"

"(In open tender) Scomi got a total of 355 buses out of 1,350 buses and (of these) 160 were awarded to MTrans when his son-in-law was involved and long before Scomi bought into the company."

Doss also claimed that the current administration halted the Putrajaya monorail network (which Dr Mahathir had awarded to MTrans) because it was not a viable venture.

"It would not be prudent for the government to justify spending the amount of money required to sustain the monorail for Putrajaya."

Doss said Dr Mahathir was fortunate that during his tenure, "he was spared the constant vigilance of bloggers.

"The mainstream media he could and did suppress.

"Otherwise the litany of allegations about many commercial ventures where he is said to have influenced decisions in favour of his family and friends would have been endless."