

# Dr M: Show proof I asked World Bank for 1997 loan

**SUFFICIENT FUNDS:** Former premier says he never made any request for money

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**F**ORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad again demanded the opposition show proof he had allegedly applied for a loan from the World Bank during the 1997 financial crisis.

He brushed aside the three documents disclosed by the opposition that allegedly showed he had done so, describing them as absurd. He said he would seek confirmation from the World Bank about the alleged documents.

"I want to see. I need to see the documents (to check) whether they

are genuine. I want to ask the World Bank whether this is true.

"Nowadays, even photos of humans with someone else's body can be done.

"As far as I can remember, and I have not forgotten, I have never made a request for any money, not during the financial crisis, or even after that. I had just criticised the World Bank, then I ask money from them, for what? I would be stupid."

He said this after meeting 26 participants of reality programme

*Adik-Adikku* at the Perdana Leadership Foundation here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said after the financial crisis was over, Malaysia was not even on speaking terms with the World Bank, which had thought Malaysia would be finished because it did not accept its help.

He also denied Malaysia had received funds from the World Bank for an education project during the financial crisis.

"We had sufficient funds (at that time)."

*"Nowadays, even photos of humans with someone else's body can be done."*

*Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad former PM*

He questioned why the documents appeared all of a sudden, when opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had said that he did not have them earlier.

"Why only today after so many years?" he asked, adding it was a ploy to smear him because of the coming general election.

Anwar was earlier reported to have claimed that Dr Mahathir had written to the World Bank for financial aid during the financial crisis.

He had said this when delivering a speech at a dinner to discuss the Economic Transformation Programme, which was also attended by representatives from foreign missions.