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Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	11/06/2012

# 'Anwar must explain claim'

**RM3 BILLION POSER:** He is urged to file a defamation suit against Murad over his statutory declaration

SHAHRUM SAYUTHI  
AND ADIB POVERA  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**A** FORMER loyalist of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday became the latest individual calling for the Parti Keadilan Rakyat leader to come clean over an allegation that he had amassed about RM3 billion while he was the deputy prime minister and finance minister.

Ruslan Kassim, who used to be the information chief of PKR, and who now holds the same post in Pertubuhan Pribumi Perkasa Malaysia (Perkasa), repeated the challenge for Anwar to sue former deputy Bank Negara governor Datuk Abdul Murad Khalid over the latter's statutory declaration in 1999, in which the former banker claimed that Anwar controlled about RM3 billion in 20 separate personal accounts.

Murad had, however, retracted his declaration later on.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin had on Saturday joined several others who called on Anwar to clarify his position on the matter.

Ruslan, in his statement yesterday, said it was Perkasa's stand that Anwar needed to immediately file a defamation suit against Murad to prove that the latter was not his proxy or crony.

"This is important because Murad's statutory declaration could prove that Anwar was

involved in abuse of power, inappropriate dealings and corruption.

"Anwar needs to sue Murad to clear his name and refute the allegations."

Ruslan, however, said he and many others were predicting that Anwar would not dare to sue Murad as "both of them know of each others' secrets".

He also warned the public that Anwar would employ his usual tactic of trying to divert the people's attention from the issue.

He added that Anwar should not try to stay quiet about the issue and urged the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission to act fast on the case.

"The people have the right to ask why Anwar has always been prompt in denying any wrongdoing in other issues and very quick to proceed with legal actions while in this case he has been strangely quiet."

In **Alor Star**, Kedah Umno Youth yesterday lodged a police report against Anwar over the allegation on the latter's ownership of 20 master accounts worth RM3 billion.

The movement's chief, Badrolhisham Hashim, lodged the report at the Padang Terap district police headquarters in Kuala Nerang near here at 11am.

"This is a serious allegation and the authorities should be compelled to conduct a comprehensive investigation over the matter.

"The opposition leader must be responsible and explain to the people because it involves such a huge amount of money."

**"Anwar needs to sue Murad to clear his name and refute the allegations."  
Ruslan Kassim  
Perkasa  
information chief**