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Not a single sen deposited into my account: Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said allegations that he had taken money for use during general elections were all slanderous.

During his time as prime minister and Umno president, he said the Umno headquarters had three trustees.

"I was one of them and we all had a bank account. We all made donations, especially during

elections where money was deposited into the account.

"Two of the three trustees had the power to manage the account and issue cheques," he said in his latest blog posting.

He said the trustees were also named as the shareholders and property owners for Umno.

"When I resigned as Umno president, I directed that all the money, shares and relevant documentation be surrendered to

Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"The money surrendered was more than RM200 million, while the shares and property were worth RM1.2 billion," said Mahathir.

He added that not a single sen was deposited into his personal account.

He said he prepared all his personal accounts for the last 22 years and these were inspected by a third party.

In the 1964 and 1969 general elections, he said RM20,000 cash from the Umno headquarters was given to him to be distributed - 40% for parliamentary seats and 30% for state constituencies.

"Since I was unable to carry around RM20,000 cash, I put the money into my account and issued cheques.

"The money was not from donors but was Umno's money which was given to the divisions

for use by the candidate."

He added that there were slight differences between the RM20,000 cash which he accepted and a cheque for US\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) which was alleged to have been deposited into Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak's account.

"If Umno now needs RM2.6 billion for an election, it clearly contravenes electoral rules and regulations," he added.