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'Umno members support leadership to strengthen party'

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prevent investigations into 1MDB from continuing.

"The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and Bank Negara are investigating (1MDB).

"Gani quit because of health reasons and PAC has not been dissolved. It will present its findings (on 1MDB) next year."

On Dr Mahathir's claim that the

increase in minimum wage was forcing factories to move operations to other countries, Salleh said this was another lie.

"Foreign Direct Investment for the third quarter of this year stands at RM500.2 billion, which is an increase compared with the second quarter."

On Dr Mahathir's assertion that the Malaysian economy was in a slump, Salleh said this was due to

the global drop in crude oil prices.

"If the country's revenue goes down, the currency will also take a hit. However, under Najib's leadership, our reliance on oil revenue has dropped to 20 per cent from 30 per cent."

He said Dr Mahathir's claim that Barisan Nasional might lose in the next general election would come true only if the former prime minister continued his attacks against

the government.

"Dr Mahathir urged Umno members not to support a leader blindly. But, I think Umno members support the leadership to strengthen the party.

"If (former prime minister) Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Najib could be removed after Dr Mahathir attacked them, then, whoever becomes the next Umno president will always be weak."