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| Newspaper | The Star |
| Date | 2 June 2015 |

Dr M: All the best in finding my 'hidden' millions

The Star - 2/6/2015

PUTRAJAYA: "Good luck," says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to whoever is willing to take up the offer of RM1mil to expose his allegedly hidden wealth.

In a sarcastic response to the Citizens for Accountable Government Malaysia (CAGM), the former prime minister said: "I wish everybody good luck. I hope they will earn more millions.

"I'm sure there must be quite a number of things they can find, and if they make money, why not?"

"It is an easy way for them to make money."

On May 30, DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang had lashed out at the group for its "questionable timing" of making the offer when Dr Mahathir was verbally attacking Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Lim had also demanded an explanation from those behind the group as to why a similar offer had not been made during Dr Mahathir's

tenure as prime minister.

To this, the former premier simply said: "I don't often agree with Kit Siang, but today I agree."

Asked on the differing stands between Cabinet members on the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) controversy, Dr Mahathir said Najib should have just removed them from office.

"If I was Najib I would have just gotten rid of them. Even back then, I threw out many people from office," he told reporters at the sidelines of the Maybank Foundation-Perdana Leadership Foundation writing and photo contest launch yesterday.

In his speech earlier, Dr Mahathir lamented the dying art of writing, which he said had degenerated from proper spelling to a focus on sounds.

"Most youths now think that it is perfectly all right to spell a word wrongly as long as when pro-

nounced, it sounds the same as the actual written word. This should not be the way.

"For example, I am for you has been abbreviated to 1M4U. It was shortened because people feel that spelling it out in full is too much trouble," he said, taking a swipe at the government-initiated youth movement.

The Maybank Foundation-Perdana Leadership Foundation writing and photo contest challenges Malaysians to articulate their opinions on subjects like leadership, volunteerism and courage through fiction essays and photos.

Carrying the theme "Empowering Youth for a better Asean", the contest is open to Malaysians aged between 13 and 21, and is open from now until Sept 16.

For more information on the categories, terms and conditions and prizes for the contest, visit www.maybankperdanacontest.com.



VIP signature: Dr Mahathir signing on the mock book during the launch as (from left) Maybank Foundation CEO Shahril Azuar Jimin, Maybank vice-chairman Datuk Mohd Salleh Harun and Perdana Leadership Foundation executive director Tan Sri Nik Mohamed Nik Yaacob look on.