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'Dr M's accusations not based on facts'

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RESPONSE TO BLOG POSTING: He admitted he made assumptions, says IMDB

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad has admitted that his allegations against Malaysia Development Bhd (IMDB) were based on assumptions, said the company in a statement yesterday.

In response to the former prime minister's latest blog posting, IMDB said it was a fact that its accounts had been audited by reputable international firms and were available for public review.

Dr Mahathir had wrote that since IMDB "missed out many things" in its earlier statements, he "had to

make certain assumptions and ask for clarification".

"The retired and former politician has continued to repeat old, unproven allegations based on, what he himself admits, 'assumptions', instead of evidence.

"This is despite detailed and factual clarifications issued by IMDB, and the fact that Dr Mahathir has repeatedly been proven wrong in his claim that 'RM42 billion hilang' (RM42 billion were missing) from IMDB. Unlike Dr Mahathir, who relies on assumptions, IMDB prefers to deal with facts."

The company said if Dr Mahathir was interested in seeking the truth, he would have allowed the authorities to complete their investigations.

"Instead, Dr Mahathir continues to make unproven allegations without any investigation, without any reference to facts and without any regard to the rules of law and due process."

IMDB said it was also a well-known fact that the Auditor General had been tasked by the cabinet on March 4 to review its past accounts.

It also said an interim report was presented to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on July 9 and a final report will be presented to the committee on Dec 17.

"IMDB remains the most investigated company in the history of Malaysia. We have cooperated fully with the authorities, which include the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, police, Bank Negara, National Audit Department and the PAC.

"Documentary evidences have been submitted to them. Each agency has independently conducted investigations and publicly issued statements on IMDB."

The company said by making allegations based on assumptions, Dr Mahathir had revealed his contempt against the agencies investigating IMDB.

"After 22 years in power, in his mind, only Dr Mahathir can be right. This is despite him being proven wrong on the 'RM42 billion hilang' allegation and meekly confessing to not having any evidence, when asked whether he would lodge a police report against IMDB."