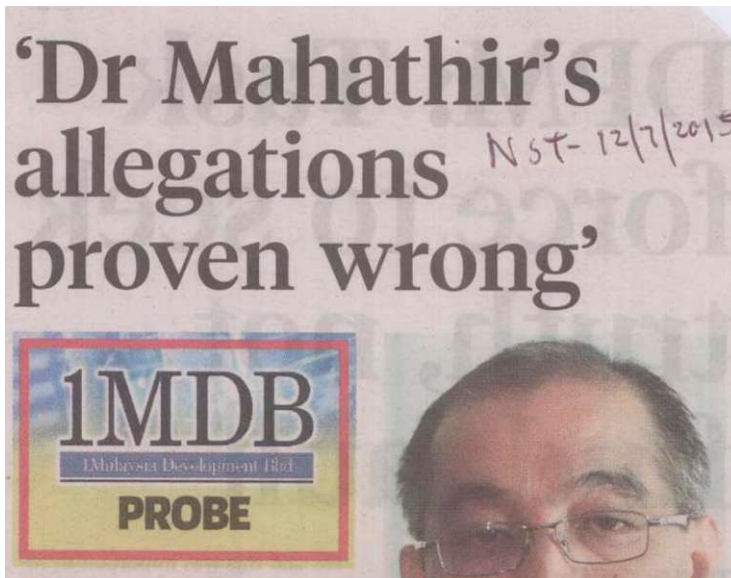


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Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should apologise to the prime minister

KUALA LUMPUR: The auditor general's interim audit report on Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) has proven that Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's allegations against the sovereign wealth fund are incorrect.

Sabah state assembly Speaker Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak said the report, which was presented to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Thursday, had put paid to the former premier's claims.

"The basis of Dr Mahathir's attacks on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is that 1MDB has lost RM42 billion.

"In fact, the term Dr Mahathir used was 'disappeared into thin air'. The interim report, however, has shown that RM42 billion has not disappeared as Dr Mahathir had alleged," he told the *New Sunday Times* yesterday.

Salleh said although it was an interim report, it had proven that Dr Mahathir's allegation was baseless.

"We can give Dr Mahathir the benefit of the doubt and assume that he is unable to understand financial reports, and that he accused Najib not out of malicious reasons, but due to this inability."

However, he said Dr Mahathir's attacks against Najib had created public uneasiness by allowing his

allegations to be used by foreign media to create instability in the country.

He urged Dr Mahathir to apologise to the prime minister.

"Considering this is the holy month of Ramadan, Dr Mahathir should apologise... for this serious injustice not only to the prime minister, but also the entire nation."

The interim report covers the chronology of events relating to 1MDB and financial statements from Feb 27, 2009, to March 30 this year.

PAC chairman Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed had said the report by the auditor general revealed nothing out of the ordinary.

1MDB is an entity of the Finance Ministry and the prime minister chairs its advisory board.