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| Newspaper | New Straits Times |
| Date | 13 May 2015 |

2 Questions for Dr M from Tunku Aziz

-» From Page 3

In a column published in the *New Straits Times* on May 4, Tunku Aziz wrote about an overseas venture by the government that went horribly wrong.

"Soon after Dr Mahathir took over the reins of government, a horrendous financial scandal engulfed Bank Bumiputra Berhad, incorporated in 1978 as the vehicle to launch Malays into business. Touted as the Aagship of the New Economic Policy, by 1988 it had assets worth more than US\$15 billion (RM54 billion).

"Moving aggressively into overseas ventures, lending recklessly to politically well-connected companies and individuals, many of them possessed neither the capacity nor the intention of repaying the loans.

"The bank shifted large sums of money to its wholly-owned subsidiary, BMF, which in turn lent in total close to US\$1 billion to a Hong Kong \$2 company called Plessey Investment Limited and another, Carrian Investment Limited.

"George Tan, the man behind Carrian, within months of the BMF money going through the books, ran his company into the ground. Billions disappeared into thin air."

Tunku Aziz also questioned the wealth amassed by two of Dr Mahathir's sons, Datuk Mirzan Mahathir and Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir.

"When you were in a position of influence as prime minister and Petronas adviser, was not Mokhzani's company awarded pro-

jects worth RM6 billion by Petronas? Did you not recognise a conflict of interest in all of this?

"Of course, you will say that you were not involved in the project award processes. I would like to believe you, but please prove that you had absolutely nothing to do with your son getting the Petronas contracts.

"You said your son, Mirzan, was forced to sell his shipping company to Petronas, but everybody knows that it was Petronas that was forced to buy Mirzan's shipping company at almost 15 times above market price.

"At the time, you were the prime minister. Was it not a case of abuse of power?

"I earnestly urge you to invite MACC to reopen Mirzan's bailout to clear your good name."