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Najib should be investigated for making false statements, says Dr M

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak should be investigated for lying about the whereabouts of the iMalaysia Development Berhad's (iMDB) funds, says former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He was referring to Najib's reply in Parliament about iMDB funds and said any attempt to "cover up" or "hide a mistake" involving government affairs is an offence and should be investigated under the Penal Code.

"It is very saddening when I find I can no longer deviate from the fact that the prime minister is lying. With regard to iMDB funds that was earlier said to have been brought back from the Cayman Islands and kept in BSI Bank Singapore, the written answer from the prime minister in Parliament does not reflect this," Mahathir wrote in his blog

chedet.cc yesterday.

He said the first lie was that no cash from iMDB was repatriated, and the second was that there were no funds deposited in BSI Bank in Singapore.

"This is obvious from the first answer that no cash worth US\$1.103 billion (RM3.6 billion) was kept in BSI Bank, but only documents. What the documents are is not clear, but what is clear is that it was not cash."

In a written reply to Tony Pua (DAP-Petaling Jaya Utara), the Finance Ministry said: "iMDB has explained that the balance investment funds that have been redeemed are in the form of assets in US currency in a bank in Singapore to balance its denominated liability.

"The bank is the custodian for iMDB's assets."

It also stated that the ministry is amending its answers to Pua in March, when it said the Cayman Islands investment funds were redeemed in the form of cash and still kept in BSI Bank in US currency.

"After this, BSI Bank had denied issuing documents supplied by iMDB relating to 31 accounts for iMDB subsidiary Brazen Sky Limited," Mahathir said.

"This shows that the answer from Najib is not true. BSI Banks has since reported the matter to the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) that there are no iMDB funds deposited in the bank. Normally, MAS would have reported this matter to Bank Negara Malaysia," he added.

He said it is clear that the answers by Najib, government officials, Bank Negara and iMDB that the money has been

repatriated from the Cayman Islands and kept in Singapore are not true.

"The amendment to the first parliamentary answer that it wasn't funds that were brought back but documents is all false. Those who made false statements have contravened Section 218 (of the Penal Code).

"Something serious is happening. Money owed by a government-owned company, of which RM7 billion is guaranteed by the government, can no longer be traced and attempts are made to lie to Parliament and the country," said Mahathir.

"There is an element of crime in this case, which the police must investigate, and if the money cannot be found, then legal action has to be taken against the relevant parties," he added.