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Repeat claim, Dr M dared

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CHALLENGED:

Ex-PM has never apologised for 1MDB allegation, says Salleh

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COMMUNICATIONS and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak has challenged former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to repeat his allegation in Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar.

He said Dr Mahathir had no choice but to recycle last year's allegation regarding strategic development company 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), even though the Attorney-General's Chambers, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and *The Wall Street Journal* had confirmed there was no evidence of misappropriation or wrongdoing in 1MDB.

"He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has stolen at least RM42 billion and maybe as much as RM50 billion of 1MDB's

money. I challenge Dr Mahathir to repeat this allegation during his campaign since he has never withdrawn it or apologised for making the allegation," Salleh said in his latest blog posting yesterday.

In April, the bi-partisan PAC concluded that all 1MDB's funds were accounted for. The A-G had said the prime minister was not involved with 1MDB's management and funds.

Salleh said Dr Mahathir was trying to avoid talking about the 1.2 million signatures collected for his Mahathir-Kit Siang declaration due to the allegation of false signatures.

He said Pakatan Harapan, in particular Parti Amanah Negara (PAN), was avoiding the issue of Pas's private member's bill during its campaigning.

"Amanah cannot afford to declare that they oppose the syariah amendment and neither can they declare they support it. So Amanah is *terkepit* (stuck in between)."

He said PAN needed the Chinese vote and hoped to take some of the Malay vote, and therefore, it could not take any stand on the syariah amendment.

It even threatened to sue anyone who alleged that they opposed the amendment, he said.

