

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	08 FEBRUARY 2017

BNM & BMF SCANDALS

SALLEH: SET UP INQUIRY PANEL

NST-8/2/2017

Minister calls Dr M, Kit Siang sour grapes for calling for RCI to probe 1MDB

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COMMUNICATIONS and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak said a Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) is needed to look into the Bumiputra Malaysia Finance (BMF) and Bank Negara foreign exchange (forex) scandals as the issues have never been investigated.

He said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang were sour grapes for not comparing apples-to-apples when they said an RCI was needed not just for the two scandals, but also for

Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) as well.

Salleh said Dr Mahathir and Lim had overlooked the fact that 1MDB had been investigated by the Public Accounts Committee, a special task force that investigated the police reports lodged over 1MDB, the auditor general, the attorney-general, the police, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and others.

Moreover, he said, reports on the issue had already been prepared.

“Regarding the BMF and Bank Negara forex scandals, however, no such thing was done, and, in fact, at



Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak

that time, Parliament was misinformed about the matter and only today are we discovering the truth.

“The government’s real exposure in 1MDB is only RM1 million, the initial paid up capital. Mahathir, however, is creating the impression that the government lost RM42 billion, which is not true and is a fabrication,” he said on his blog at sskeruak.blogspot.my.

He said in the cases of the BMF and Bank Negara forex scandals, the losses were substantial, and involved massive capital injections and bailouts.

While the finances of 1MDB were an open book, until today, the finances related to the BMF and Bank Negara forex scandals remained unknown, and hence, there was a need for an RCI on these two

matters, he said.

“The government has never needed to bail out 1MDB with any capital injection (other than the initial RMI million capital injection) like in the case of the BMF and Bank Negara forex scandals, which cost the country hundreds of billions.

“Even then, we do not know how much the amount really was, unlike in 1MDB’s case. And only an RCI can get to the truth regarding the BMF and Bank Negara forex scandals.”

Salleh’s statement came after Dr Mahathir yesterday said he welcomed a call for the government to set up an RCI to investigate the Bank Negara forex scandal.

Responding to Umno Youth’s call for the RCI, Dr Mahathir said while he welcomed the call, the same commission should also investigate 1MDB and the RM2.6 billion political donation scandal and what had happened to the money.