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ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

'Dishonest move by duo to suggest setting up panel'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and DAP veteran Lim Kit Siang have been described as "utterly dishonest" to suggest that a Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) be established for Malaysia Development Bhd (IMDB), if a similar one was set up to probe into the Bank Negara Malaysia foreign exchange (Forex) scandal.

Former DAP national vice chairman Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim said Lim's silence over the Bumiputera Malaysia Finance Ltd (BMF) and the Bank Negara forex scandals of the 1980s and 1990s had puzzled many.

He said this was particularly strange in light of the debate on the losses suffered by the government at a magnitude never before experienced in the country's history.

"His attitude is difficult to reconcile with his self-projected role as a conscience of the nation. The thunderous messianic voice of self-righteousness has today, even as I speak, given way to what I can only fairly describe as the silence of the lambs," he said here yesterday.

Tunku Aziz said Lim was not even bleating any more as Dr Mahathir "led him to the slaughterhouse".

"In short, his submission to Dr Ma-

hathir's will is total and complete, and Lim has been successfully turned over," he said, adding that Lim's political principles were, in fact, negotiable and that he was an accomplished practitioner of the politics of the expedient.

"The quid pro quo in this instance is that in return for Dr Mahathir giving the DAP his political seal of approval, which he has, Lim would not insist on the RCI that he demanded so noisily for the BMF affair in the 1980s, in which a loss of RM2.5 billion was incurred.

"A good deal for his brand of politics, but a bad one for us the unsuspecting public."

He said Lim had also said nothing on the need for a RCI to inquire into the BNM forex gambling spree that allegedly saw US\$10 billion of the nation's reserves going down the drain.

Tunku Aziz said IMDB had been investigated by the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, the Special Task Force, the Auditor-General, the Attorney-General, the police as well as the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

However, he said no such in-depth investigation had been carried out on the BMF affair and Bank Negara forex gambling spree.



Tunku Abdul Aziz
Tunku Ibrahim