

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	21 JUNE 2017

POWER ABUSE ALLEGATION  
NST- 21/6/2017 pg. 11

## 'Probe Dr M, Mukhriz over 2003 contract'

**PUTRAJAYA:** Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) Armada has urged the authorities to investigate two of its leaders, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, over alleged scandals linked to a multi-million ringgit government project in 2003.

PPBM Armada executive council member Mohamad Taufik Abas claimed that there were cases of misappropriation of funds and abuse of power during party chairman Dr Mahathir's tenure as prime minister and finance minister.

Taufik claimed Dr Mahathir had, in 2003, approved an application by Opcom Sdn Bhd to supply fibre-optic cables worth RM214.2 million to Telekom Malaysia Bhd without going through a tender process.

Taufik, who lodged a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) on the



*PPBM Armada executive council member Mohamad Taufik Abas (third from left) showing the report he lodged at the MACC office in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD*

matter yesterday, urged the authorities to act immediately to ensure PPBM remained a clean political party.

"I have submitted the documents to MACC and I hope their investigation will clear the air and the party's name. There is conflict of interest here between Dr Mahathir and his son.

"Both leaders have a responsibility to explain the issue to the public and PPBM grassroots members. Also, youngsters like us joined the party to fight for a fair and clean government.

"People like Mukhriz and (PPBM president) Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin have been championing freedom of speech, calling for transparency, opposing corrupt practices and they supposedly want a clean party.

This is exactly what I'm doing. I do not see myself at fault here," he said at the MACC office here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir is PPBM chairman, while Mukhriz is deputy president.

Taufik showed the media a copy of a letter dated Oct 7, 2003, stating that the Finance Ministry had, in that same year, approved an application for Opcom.

The letter bore the Finance Ministry's letterhead. It stated that Opcom was awarded the contract via direct negotiations, and the period was three years.

He claimed there were no channels to raise such issues in the party.

The firm's chairman is Mukhriz's elder brother, Tan Sri Mokhzani Mahathir.