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INNER CIRCLE

Businessman may be one of Dr M's 'friends', claims blogger

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KUALA LUMPUR: A corporate figure who had RM126 million seized from him by the authorities may be one of the "friends" Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had claimed were harassed by government agencies.

Blogger Lim Sian See, in a Facebook posting, said this in reference to the seizure by the Inland Revenue Board on the sum placed as fixed deposits with a foreign owned bank by Country Heights Holdings Bhd (CHHB) executive chairman and major shareholder, Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew.

The blogger said he believed Lee was one of the "friends" Dr Mahathir had referred to when he complained repeatedly in his blog postings and ceramah where he claimed they were being "harassed" by the board for

being close to him.

According to a statement from Country Heights, the seizure was made in connection with RM22.5 million worth of tax liabilities incurred by the company's wholly-owned unit Country Heights Sdn Bhd (CHSB) for assessment years 1997 and 1998.

Country Heights had informed Bursa Malaysia that it had received notification of the cash from Lee in a letter dated May 8.

"Tan Sri Lee further informed that he had requested a confirmation from the IRB of the seizure, and whether the seized funds had been or would be applied to settle the tax liability, but the IRB has yet to respond," the notification from Bursa Malaysia read.