

Najib's cash-is-king clarification amuses, PM

FUKUOKA: Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed amusement over former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's clarification of his infamous line "cash is king".

Najib reportedly said: "People are the king and the cash, we use to help the people."

Dr Mahathir, who was in stitches over the report, described Najib as "fantastic".

"Fantastic *la* Najib *ni*. Why did he not say that back then? Or why did he not implement it as such? If the rakyat is king, then go serve them. Not by giving them money. And when he is cornered, he couldn't find anything else to say.

"He said, 'Dr Mahathir is malicious'. And the (interpretation) is wrong. He did not explain that to me when he said it in front of me.

"This is absurd. Cash is king, but Najib's wife, Datin Seri Ros-

mah Mansor, got the money and bought all of her bags.

"Which portion of the money did the people get? They received bribes in exchange for support. People are not stupid," he said at the wrap-up of his two-day working visit here.

On Umno disposing of stakes in media companies and raising funds up to RM2 billion, Dr Mahathir said he hoped the party would not use the money for corruption.

"We (Pakatan Harapan) did not buy the stakes, but other parties did. We know Umno used the media to attack the government. They are not in power, but they have the media. Now they have decided to sell their stake in the companies.

"They get money from disposing of the stakes. If they use the money like before, which is to bribe people, they will have to face the law."