

PM: STRATEGIC ASSETS SALE MY CALL TO MAKE

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Dr M confirms Guan Eng's statement, adds sale is to pay down RM1 trillion in debts

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PRIME Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is responsible for making decisions to sell and dispose of government strategic assets.

"I am chairman of Khazanah Nasional, so in a way, I am involved."

He said the government's sovereign wealth fund owned the assets and had the authority to

dispose of them.

"We had to sell the assets to raise funds to pay the debts left by the previous government as they borrowed too much, about RM1 trillion."

He was commenting on a report in a local daily that quoted Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng as saying that the sale or disposal of government strategic assets was under the purview of the prime minister.

Speaking after a visit to the Sultan Iskandar Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex

here, Dr Mahathir said the selling of government assets would involve a tender process so that they could get the highest bidder.

"We are selling the assets at good prices and to get a good profit."

Later, at a meet-and-greet session with the local community at the SJK(C) Bin Chong hall in Pontian, Dr Mahathir said Umno did not field a candidate for the Tanjung Piai by-election as it feared defeat.

"Umno is scared. Because I know if Barisan Nasional fields an Umno candidate, it will lose. We believe we can win, regardless of who BN fields."

BN is fielding a candidate from MCA for the by-election.