

# Political funding law would have prevented fine: Ahmad

**DATUK** Seri Ahmad Maslan (BN-Pontian) has blamed the lack of a certain legislation for having to pay to save his own skin.

He claimed that the situation had turned him into a political victim.

He was referring to the RM1.1 million compound issued against him upon his acquittal of money laundering charges.

Ahmad, who is Umno secretary-general, urged the government to table the proposed political funding Bill sometime during its current term for debate.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob had earlier said that a new Bill on political funding would be introduced soon.

Ahmad then admitted that he had received RM1.1 million from Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak (BN-Pekan), who was prime minister then, and not RM2 million as reported.

He said people should respect the court ruling. "I was discharged yesterday (on Wednesday) but I still had to pay the compound."

In response to Khoo Poay Tiong (PH-Kota Melaka), who wanted to know why he paid the RM1.1 million compound, Ahmad said he was made a similar offer by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in 2019.

"I decided to fight it out in court as some who received RM50,000 were being compounded 50 times more by the MACC.

"How can it (the compound) be 50 times more than the amount received? Some people got RM100,000 and that was 25 times more. So I fought at that time. But I saw the process (court) was really slow, so I confessed to MACC that I received RM1.1 million but I did not admit to receiving RM2 million."

Ahmad said Najib himself had confirmed the exact amount he had received from the former prime minister.

"So I would like to urge the government to table the Political Funding Bill in this sitting as mentioned by the prime minister earlier."

## STRESSING A POINT ...

Member of Parliament for Langkawi Tun Dr Mohathir Mohamad, debating the 12th Malaysia Plan yesterday.

