

PUAD TAKES AIM AT DR M OVER CLAIMS

Umno Supreme Council member Puad Zarkashi says ex-PM did not care about what was happening in the party

ADIB POVERA
KUALA LUMPUR
adibpovera@nst.com.my

UMNO Supreme Council member Datuk Dr Puad Zarkashi claimed that Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was reluctant to

investigate and eradicate money politics allegedly festering in the party as its president in the 1990s, because he himself was the “king of cronyism and nepotism”.

Puad, in a post on his Facebook account yesterday, alleged that Dr Mahathir bailed out a company belonging to a relative when the country was hit by the 1998 Asian financial crisis.

Puad was commenting on the statement made by Dr Mahathir during his interview in the latest episode of the *Keluar Sekejap* podcast hosted by Khairy Jamaluddin and Shahril Sufian Hamdan on Monday.

“He told KJ (Khairy) that he did not instruct the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)

on purpose to investigate (the alleged) money politics in Umno.

“How would he instruct the MACC to do so since he (Dr Mahathir) himself is the *raja kroni* (king of cronyism) and nepotism?” the post read.

Puad also claimed it was Dr Mahathir who brought former finance minister Tun Daim Zainuddin into Umno, which later started the culture of the politics of commerce within the party.

“Since then, corporate figures have been keen to secure a position in the party. Dr Mahathir did not care about what happened in Umno (at the time) as long as his position... was safe.”

During the podcast, Dr Mahathir was asked why he did not act to eradicate and stem corruption which allegedly was enveloping Umno at the time.

He said in response that party members should not have waited for his directive in the event they found any irregularities and practices which went against the law to address the issue.



Datuk Dr Puad Zarkashi