

## FIRST TIME MEETING

# I sought advice from Dr M, says businessman

**SHAH ALAM:** Businessman Albert Tei has denied that his recent meeting with former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had any political link, saying it was solely to seek advice over the corruption cases he is facing.

Tei, whose full name is Tei Jiann Cheing, 37, said the photograph of the meeting that circulated online triggered unfounded speculation even though it was his meeting with Dr Mahathir.

“The viral photo was taken the first time I met him in my life. I was surprised to see theories on social media suggesting I had political ties with Tun M.

“Some even said I was supposedly ‘Tun M’s man’, accusing us of conspiracies and more.

“I urge everyone to stop spreading allegations about him and me,” he said when met at the Shah Alam Courts Complex yesterday.

Tei said his meeting with Dr Mahathir at the Perdana Leadership Foundation last week was to relay concerns about his case, including threats he claimed he received after exposing alleged

misconduct involving certain individuals.

He said Dr Mahathir listened throughout the roughly one-hour meeting and offered guidance based on his experience as a statesman.

“He did not ask a single question about politics. He only advised me to take the proper steps. That is all.

“There was no political element, no suggestion for me to meet anyone, no agenda.”

On why he chose to meet Dr Mahathir, Tei said he did so on a friend’s advice, believing only a figure with his experience could offer meaningful perspective.

Earlier, Tei was charged at the Sessions Court here with offering a bribe to former senior political secretary to the prime minister Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin as an inducement to help companies in which he had an interest secure mineral exploration licences in Sabah.

Shamsul had also claimed trial to a charge of soliciting a RM64,924 bribe from Tei in 2023 and last year.

Both pleaded not guilty.