

**Former M'sian PM refutes report on bribery bid over currency contract**  
**Asia News Network**  
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**By Mazwin Nik Anis in Petaling Jaya**

Petaling Jaya (The Star/ANN) - Malaysia's former prime minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has refuted a foreign media report alleging two Australian banknote firms of attempting to bribe him over a multimillion-ringgit currency contract during his tenure as Prime Minister.

He said he had no recollection of anyone approaching him with such an offer.

"There is no truth whatsoever in the allegation as I cannot remember of anyone approaching me with any offer.

"If indeed there was any, I would have unhesitatingly lodged an immediate report to the regulatory authorities including the police for the necessary follow-up action," Abdullah said in press statement.

A news report published in Australian daily The Age said the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) banknote firms were suspected of attempting to bribe Abdullah in order to get his help to win a A\$31mil currency contract.

The report said Abdullah was one of several highly influential Malaysian political figures whom anti-corruption authorities believe Security and Note Printing Australia firms respectively half and fully owned and overseen by RBA allegedly sought to bribe using part of A\$4.2mil in commission payments made to two Malaysian middlemen.

The daily said its Malaysian sources confirmed that the Australian Federal Police had gathered information about attempts to bribe Abdullah by Security and Note Printing Australia.

The newspaper said it was made to understand that the attempt to bribe Abdullah occurred in 2003, the year he became prime minister and finance minister.

Abdullah served as prime minister until 2009.

Last week, Bank Negara assistant governor Mohamad Daud Dol Moin, 58, claimed trial in the Sessions Court to two counts of accepting bribes amounting to 100,000 ringgit (US\$33,220) from a businessman to help procure a contract from the central bank.

Mohamad Daud was accused of receiving two bribes of 50,000 ringgit from Abdul Kayum Syed Ahmad at Dome Restaurant, Bangsar Shopping Centre, on Dec 1, 2004, and Feb 16, 2005.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission said the contract to print 5-ringgit polymer bank notes by Note Printing Australia Ltd was worth about 95mil ringgit.

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