

Pak Lah denies bribery attempt in polymer note scandal
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Former Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. BERNAMA

PETALING JAYA (July 5, 2011): Former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today denied allegations that two Australian bank note firms had attempted to bribe him in order to secure a RM95 million contract to produce RM5 polymer bank notes.

Australian daily *The Age* today front-paged a report which linked Abdullah to the ongoing joint probe into the polymer note scandal involving Note Printing Australia (NPA) Ltd and Securrency International, both subsidiaries of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

It claim the alleged bribe attempt took place around 2003, the year Abdullah became prime minister and finance minister.

"Under no circumstances, am I obliged to respond to any unsubstantiated allegations of impropriety on my part," said Abdullah in a statement.

"However, there is no truth whatsoever in the allegation as I cannot possibly remember of anyone approaching me with any offer," he said adding that if the matter had arisen, he would not have hesitated to lodge an immediate report with the relevant authorities.

So far, eight people have been arrested in the ongoing probe in both countries, including six former senior executives from the two Australian firms and former Bank Negara Malaysia assistant governor Datuk Mohamad Daud Dol Moin.

Mohamad Daud was charged at the Kuala Lumpur sessions court last Friday with receiving two bribes of RM50,000 each from businessman Abdul Kayum Syed Ahmad,

who was accused of being a middleman in the deal, to help procure the contract to produce RM5 polymer bank notes.

Abdul Kayum was also charged on the same day at the Shah Alam sessions court with two counts bribing Mohamad Daud. Both plead not guilty.

The Age and *theSun* had cooperated to expose the polymer note scandal last year, where senior Malaysian and Australian officials were under probe for graft in securing the polymer note deal.

Meanwhile, MACC deputy commissioner Datuk Shukri Abdull when contacted said the allegations is a new development in the ongoing polymer note probe.

"We do not have this information yet," he said in a text message to *theSun*.

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