

Aussie banknote firms tried to bribe Pak Lah, reveals probe
The Malaysian Insider
By Shannon Teoh
July 05, 2011

KUALA LUMPUR, July 5 — The central bank of Australia's banknote firms attempted to bribe former Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Badawi to win a RM100 million currency contract from Malaysia, Australian daily *The Age* reported today.

The ongoing joint probe has already seen eight individuals arrested, including six former senior executives from the Australian banknote companies and ex-assistant governor of Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Datuk Mohamad Daud Dol Moin.



The Age said today that Abdullah (**picture**) was one of several top politicians that anti-graft authorities believe Securrency and Note Printing Australia (NPA) — half and fully owned by Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) respectively — allegedly sought to bribe with part of RM13.5 million in commission made to two Malaysian middlemen.

Citing Malaysian sources, the newspaper said that the attempt to bribe Abdullah related to negotiations around 2003, when he replaced Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as PM before himself stepping down in 2009.

The attempt is believed to be related to the deal for supplying RM5 polymer notes which began circulating in 2004.

Mohamad Daud was charged by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) last Friday for receiving two bribes amounting to RM50,000 from a businessman Abdul Kayum Syed Ahmad through a middleman as an inducement to assist NPA to secure the same contract.

Securrency and NPA's agents for the 2004 were former Umno state assemblyman Datuk Abdullah Hasnan Kamaruddin and arms trader Abdul Kayum, who was also arrested and charged on Friday for bribing Mohamad Daud.

Both Australian police and the MACC began investigating the case in 2009.

Last year, the MACC detained three individuals linked to the supply of RM5 polymer notes following a report that Securrency had offered bribes to officials in Malaysia.

All three, including a businessman, were charged with being paid RM11.3 million to secure the contract from BNM and to ensure that the government of Malaysia opted for polymer notes.

A recent report in Australian newspaper *The Age* said that Securrency had hired a company chaired by the brother of Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein to help it win banknote contracts in Malaysia in 2009 as it could “offer it access to, and influence over, Malaysia’s top politicians”.

But the company, Liberal Technology Sdn Bhd, said that Datuk Haris Onn Hussein, who is also Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak’s cousin, had sold his shares in 2006.

The report noted however that Securrency has not won any banknote contracts in Malaysia since its last major one in 2004 and said that it is not suggesting that Najib or Hishammuddin are involved with Securrency’s deals.

Securrency has previously secured contracts to print RM50 notes in conjunction with the Commonwealth Games in 1998 and the RM5 polymer notes in 2004.

Copyright © 2011 The Malaysian Insider.

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/aussie-banknote-firms-tried-to-bribe-pak-lah-reveals-probe/>