

**Clean your image before sullyng Anwar's, PKR tells Dr M**  
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**By Clara Chooi**

PETALING JAYA, Dec 19 — PKR told Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today to focus on cleaning his own image instead of attempting to taint Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's, reminding the former prime minister of controversies surrounding his eldest son Mirzan's finances.

Party leaders said Dr Mahathir should explain his involvement in "bailing out" his son's firm in 1998, allegedly with RM2 billion worth of taxpayers' money, and how the financially-troubled Mirzan could subsequently afford the RM2.9 billion purchase of San Miguel in the Philippines, Southeast Asia's largest beer brewery.

"Dr Mahathir should clean his own image and answer to these two issues involving his family... instead of trying to deny that he had borrowed funds from the World Bank and blaming Anwar for being in support of seeking international assistance during the 1997 financial crisis," PKR strategy director Rafizi Ramli (picture) said today.

Rafizi was referring to the ongoing row between the two leaders which erupted last week when Anwar alleged to have sighted documents proving that Dr Mahathir had sought financial aid from the World Bank during his tenure as prime minister.

In response over the weekend, Dr Mahathir had denied this, challenging Anwar to swear on the Quran and adding that he would be willing to do the same.

Dr Mahathir had also indicated that Anwar had been in favour of measures recommended by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during the financial crisis that would prove detrimental to the country's financial situation.

PKR called Dr Mahathir's bluff in a statement yesterday and furnished documented proof today that the former prime minister had sought some US\$704 million, worth some RM2.6 billion during the economic crisis, from the global financial body.

Rafizi pointed to the dates on the documents — October 23, 1998, March 3, 1999, and July 26, 1998 — all of which proved the loan appeals were made while Anwar was already sacked from his government post and was "languishing in prison with a bad back and black eye".

"So it was impossible that Anwar was in any way involved in the loan, he was already in prison at the time," he said.

Rafizi added that PKR was not disputing the "wrong or right" in Dr Mahathir's move, but was merely pointing out that the latter had openly lied about the issue.

"Should we have taken such bailouts? No, no... this is not a question about comparing one package against another... this is about how he lied.

"But whether you take these loans, it is how you administer it, how the money must be

complemented with honesty and integrity... here, we want to stress that Dr Mahathir lied.

"So, it is sufficient to shut him up... we want to make Malaysia realise that he did take financial assistance despite all his claims and this is proof of it," he said, waving the documents.

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