

**PKR shows more proof that Dr M borrowed from World Bank**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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**By Clara Chooi**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 20 — PKR produced today more documents to prove Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had lied about soliciting for World Bank funds — this time in the form of account statements from the government's 2010 Budget.

PKR strategy director Rafizi Ramli said since the former prime minister had doubted the online records the party had adduced yesterday from the World Bank, the latter should at least accept the authenticity of financial documents obtained directly from the government and passed by Parliament.

Rafizi (picture) showed reporters an account statement on Malaysia's external public debt plucked from Budget 2010 confirming that Malaysia had borrowed from the World Bank at an interest rate of 7.47 per cent for the year 2008.

Budget 2010 was tabled by Datuk Seri Najib Razak in Parliament on October 23, 2009.

According to the document, as at December 31, 2008, the country still owed RM701,040 from its US\$60 million (RM186 million) loan taken in 1999.

"PKR does not want to prolong this issue. We merely want to produce facts to correct Tun Dr Mahathir's assertions before this, which were clearly lies," he said.

He added that he had also written to the World Bank to obtain its endorsement that its online financial records are valid.

"I am confident that they are," said Rafizi.

Dr Mahathir kept up his denial of having solicited World Bank aid earlier today, and demanded evidence from the financial institution despite online records adduced by PKR yesterday.

"I want to see... I want to ask the World Bank whether this is true... Because nowadays even photos of human beings with someone else's body can be made," the former prime minister was quoted as saying by Bernama Online today.

"As far as I can remember — and I have not forgotten — I never sent any request for any money, not during the financial crisis or even after that. I had just criticised the World Bank, then I ask money from them for what? I would be stupid," he was quoted further.

On Saturday, Dr Mahathir issued a challenge for PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to produce documentation to prove the former had asked for financial help from the World Bank.

He also said he had refused aid from the World Bank and had even purportedly chased its representative from his office at the time, for fear that accepting would cause Malaysia to become a "slave" to the global institution.

Yesterday, PKR produced World Bank records showing that Dr Mahathir's administration had

accepted financial aid numerous times from May 18, 1982 to Malaysia's post-financial crisis period of March 30, 1999. This includes three loans for projects inked six months after Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was sacked as deputy prime minister in September 1998.

"So Dr Mahathir can say what he wants but today's documents came from the government's official documents... it proves that the loan was made, approved and endorsed by his government when he was the finance minister," said Rafizi.

Responding to Dr Mahathir's query today over why the issue was suddenly raised today, Rafizi told the former prime minister that in today's age of technology, obtaining such official documents was easy.

"Everything is on the Internet... you only need to know how to search for these documents. He lied, we checked and we got the documents.

"I think there is no need to ding-dong, ding-dong on this issue... I understand that he is already of advanced age, it is better that he just admits to Malaysians that he lied and apologise," he said.

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