

**Minister intervened in Deepak's Bank Rakyat loan issue twice, says PAS**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
**July 19, 2014**

PAS MP Datuk Mahfuz Omar (pic) has accused a minister of ordering Bank Rakyat to give special treatment to controversial carpet dealer Deepak Jaikishan not once, but twice, Malaysiakini reported today.

This is after PKR's Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli revealed documents that proved Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism minister Datuk Seri Hasan Malek had allegedly interfered in the RM32 million Bank Rakyat loan to Deepak.

Among them is a letter dated Jan 30, bearing the masthead of the ministry and Hasan's signature, directing the bank to delay legal action against Deepak for not settling his loan and instead allow the carpet dealer to repay his debts through 120 post-dated cheques.

Hasan, however, said that the Putrajaya-linked businessman's loan was part of a debt restructuring plan.

Mahfuz, who is Pokok Sena MP, today revealed that on Feb 27, the bank's board of directors had rejected Hasan's order.

"They instead placed a condition for Carpet Tile Sdn Bhd (Deepak's company) to pay RM5 million to show its commitment in abiding the agreement with Bank Rakyat," he was quoted as saying by Malaysiakini.

"The board of directors also decided that any debt restructuring plan for the remaining debt will be considered after Carpet Tile settles the RM5 million payment."

The news portal reported that Mahfuz claimed that Hasan had issued yet another

order to Bank Rakyat to postpone the implementation of the loan conditions imposed on Carpet Tile, in a letter dated March 5.

"Because of this, the board of directors had to agree for Carpet Tile to settle the remaining debt of RM32 million for 10 years," he was reported as saying.

Mahfuz said Hasan(pic, left) had failed to conceal the fact that he had a hand in saving Carpet Tile.

"He cannot continue lying, saying that the special treatment given was based on a decision made by the bank's management and board of directors," he was quoted as saying.

Although as a minister, Hasan was entitled to make decisions pertaining to matters related to Bank Rakyat, Mahfuz said that he could not be seen as abusing his power.

"How can giving special treatment to Deepak to pay the remaining debt, interest-free, help in protecting the interests of Bank Rakyat shareholders?" he was reported as saying.

Mahfuz, the portal reported, urged the police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to look into the matter and investigate it thoroughly.

The issue came to light after former Bank Rakyat chairman Tan Sri Sabaruddin Chik told The Malaysian Insider that Deepak used his political influence to restructure his debts through the intervention of Hasan, a claim which was denied by the minister.

Sabaruddin had said that the board of directors had initially rejected the compromise offered by Deepak to settle his outstanding debt.

Sabaruddin said Hasan was unhappy with the board's decision and refused to sign

the letter extending his tenure as Bank Rakyat chairman.

The government-owned bank is not under Bank Negara's purview and is not subjected to national bank laws. It comes under the jurisdiction of Hasan's ministry.  
– July 19, 2014.

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