

Mahathir: 1MDB created to borrow money for bribes
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By FMT Reporters

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, 90, already possibly facing criminal defamation charges, has reiterated in an interview with the UK-based The Guardian that his former protege and Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak ran a debt-ridden state-owned company into the ground by using it for bribery. "Najib should resign, step down or be removed."

"He's the one who has brought a bad image to the country."

Mahathir recalled that Najib had confided in him that "cash was king", and driven by this belief, had been buying support rather than turning in a good performance to achieve the same result. "1MDB was created so that they can borrow huge sums of money for bribery purposes," charged Mahathir. "That's not the way to win support. That's bribery."

"If you want to be popular, do a good job."

Buying support, stressed the former Prime Minister, was morally-degrading.

Mahathir apparently discovered that the money borrowed by 1MDB was not traceable. "There are officers who resigned from 1MDB because the money was not properly used but they cannot talk because they are still government servants."

He also told The Guardian that Najib claims that he received a RM2.6 billion political donation from the Middle East. "How can you believe that?" he asked.

When he was Prime Minister, said Mahathir, he was not able to get money from the Arabs for a university in Kuala Lumpur. "I asked them for money and I got nothing. I was Prime Minister."

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