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## Mahathir: No political motive behind probe on Hussein

ALOR STAR, Sat. — There is no political motive behind the Anti-Corruption Agency's recent raid on the residence of Universiti Malaya vice-chancellor Professor Syed Hussein Alatas, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister, in refuting allegations by DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang, said the raid was not a result of a "misunderstanding" between Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba and Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

"We cannot interfere in the affairs of an independent body. We have to respect the ACA's actions towards any person.

There should be no question of instigation," *Utusan Malaysia* quoted Dr Mahathir as saying.

"Don't tell me I have to give (ACA) the orders (before action is taken). That will surely jeopardise the image of the Government and the Education Ministry. The Government will not gain in any way, especially with the election so close."

Speaking to newsmen at the thanksgiving feast given by farmers in the Muda Agricultural Development Authority (Mada) area in Kepala Batas near here, Dr Mahathir accused the opposition of

"using issues" to try to ruin the Barisan Nasional's performance at the next general election.

He said the opposition had succeeded in tarnishing the image of Encik Anwar and indirectly, the Government, through such allegations.

Dr Mahathir said independent bodies were not always apolitical nor their actions free of outside interference.

Citing an example, he said the Bar Council had been irreverent to the independence of the judiciary when it pressed the judiciary to take action against Lord President Tun Hamid

Omar.

He said the council accused the Government of interfering with justice when the Government took action according to the law.

He said it was now up to the ACA to decide whether the results of the investigation on Prof Alatas be made public.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir, warned farmers in the Mada area against selling their voting rights.

He said Mada had contributed a great deal to the socio-economic development of the farmers and that certain parties were only out to ruin the farmers.