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Eusoff: No comment ... I've nothing to say

KUANTAN, Wed. - Chief Justice Tun Mohd Eusoff Chin today refused to comment on the Prime Minister's statement yesterday that there was no need for the setting up of a tribunal or Royal Commission to arbitrate his (Eusoff's) quarrel with Datuk Dr Rais Yatim.

"No comment ... I have nothing to say," he said when a reporter showed him the newspaper report on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday.

Eusoff was swarmed by reporters as he emerged from the Sultan Ahmad Shah Airport's VIP arrival hall for the two-day annual Malaysian judges conference tomorrow.

He remained tightlipped while walking to his car, shielded by several policemen.

Earlier, an unidentified official who claimed to be the person in charge of security for the conference, conveyed to reporters Eusoff's instruction that he did not wish to be interviewed.

The proposal for the setting up of a tribunal or Royal Commission was proposed by the Bar Council.

Dr Mahathir was asked about his views on the proposal upon his return from Japan yesterday.

The controversy started over over Eusoff's holiday in New Zealand, purportedly with lawyer Datuk V.K. Lingam.

Rais, had, when asked by an Australian reporter in Melbourne recently, described it as "improper behaviour".

Eusoff has since explained that he paid for the holiday and met Lingam there by chance.

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