

# Make formal complaint

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## Najib: Umno cannot act on Mahathir's claims without evidence

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Umno disciplinary board will investigate claims of money politics in the Kubang Pasu division meeting only if a formal complaint is lodged, said Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"We really want to get rid of money politics. That is the commitment of the party leadership. But we cannot act if no formal complaint is made," said the deputy president.

He said anyone from the Kubang Pasu division could lodge the complaint.

"It doesn't have to be Tun Dr Mahathir (Mohamad). Any of

the delegates can lodge the complaint," he told reporters yesterday after opening the Niosh 9th conference on Occupational Safety and Health.

He added that the complaint should also be supported by evidence or facts that could form the basis of an investigation.

Najib was asked about Dr Mahathir's allegations that he had lost in his bid to be elected as a Kubang Pasu delegate to the Umno general assembly because delegates at the division's meeting on Saturday were purportedly given RM200

each not to pick him.

He had claimed that they were given a slip of paper containing the numbers of the seven favoured delegates. Six of the seven delegates on the list won. Dr Mahathir's number and that of his son Mukhriz were not on the list - but the latter was elected.

The former Umno president had said in his press conference on Monday that he would not be lodging a complaint to the party's disciplinary board because he did not trust it.

To this, Najib said the disciplinary board under Tengku

Ahmad Rithauddeen was an independent body and not under the party leadership.

"The board has carried out its duties well all this while. As we know, even some of those holding high posts in the party have been found guilty," he added.

He stressed that the board, however, could not act based on allegations made in a press conference or from media reports.

"The procedure is that there has to be a formal complaint. It has to be that way. That is the way the party works. You have to make a formal complaint."

On Dr Mahathir's remarks

that the only way to stop him from speaking out was to throw him in jail, Najib said: "Well, he feels strongly about certain things and I suppose there is no way that we can stop him from saying those things."

He, however, said the important thing was to convince the people that the policies and decisions that the present Government had taken were in the best interest of the nation.

"We certainly respect him (Dr Mahathir) as a person but that doesn't mean that the Government will agree to everything he says or wants."