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ACA grills Dr Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says he has been interrogated by the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) for three hours in relation to the findings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the V.K. Lingam video clip.

"I am sure I will be questioned in court also because of a possibility that I was lobbied on the appointment of judges," he said in his blog www.chedet.com yesterday.

Dr Mahathir's special officer, Sufi Yusoff, in an SMS reply to Bernama, said the ACA had interviewed Dr Mahathir on June 25.

Dr Mahathir referred to the issue of the commission in his comments on his relationship with Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, which claimed that Anwar's interest in the appointment of judges was "to seek revenge against me".

"Now, the royal commission has named me as one of those to be investigated although I had nothing to do with Lingam and his activities."

He said he only came to know Lingam because he was successful in some litigation cases and decided to engage him as his lawyer in the case brought by Anwar.

"But the royal commission

concluded that if it is possible that I was involved then I must be involved. It is almost like saying if it is possible I have murdered a person then I must have murdered the person.

"Proof beyond reasonable doubt is not necessary here."

He said he was aware of efforts to find out if he had committed offences during his 22 years as prime minister.

"So far, they haven't found anything. But now they have found an indirect way of getting at me."

The royal commission, in its report, had said there was sufficient cause to invoke the Prevention of Corruption Act 1961, the Sedition Act 1961, the Legal Profession Act 1976, the Official Secrets Act 1972 and the Penal Code against Dr Mahathir, lawyer V.K. Lingam, Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, tycoon Tan Sri Vincent Tan and former chief justices Tun Mohd Eusoff Chin and Tan Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim.

Dr Mahathir was the only one who had not filed for a judicial review after the report, saying he was prepared to go to court.

In another postin on his blog, Dr Mahathir claims the high-stake political drama now playing before the eyes of

the public was a result of plotting by Anwar.

"I am not seeking sympathy from anyone. But it is a little bit too much to expect me to forget and forgive something that is happening now as a result of Anwar's plotting."

"Anwar has succeeded in blackening my name in the United States and Europe of course, but also in Muslim countries. They all think I simply threw him in prison for political reasons."

"He never said anything about how he was tried, how he was defended by nine lawyers, how the judge wrote a 360-page judgment against him, how his appeals were thrown out twice."

Dr Mahathir added, "he (Anwar) has sued me for RM100 million. He has successfully caused my lawyer to lose credibility. Now I have no lawyer to defend me against his suit."

Anwar, he said, had now turned his attention on Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"As usual he (Anwar) has found someone to make incriminating statements for him."

"There seems to be no connection between his plotting against me and his attack against Najib." — Bernama