

THE STAR

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Mahathir to take witness stand today

KUALA LUMPUR: It will be a much-anticipated day at the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the V.K. Lingam video clip today.

On the witness stand will be former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, former Chief Justice Tun Eusoff Chin and Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor.

Dr Mahathir was supposed to take the witness stand at 2.30pm yesterday and was already on his way to the Jalan Duta court complex, when he was informed by court staff that his turn to testify had been postponed.

The reason given for the postponement was because the inquiry's leading officer DPP Datuk Nordin Hassan was concerned that former chief secretary to the government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman's testimony might stretch longer than expect-

The Star - 17/1/2008
ed, leaving little time for Dr Mahathir to take the stand.

His son Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir turned up at 2.15pm thinking that his father would be testifying.

He went up to the third floor where the inquiry staff informed him of the postponement. He left after a few minutes.

Dr Mahathir will now testify at 10am today.

When the video was recorded in 2001, Tengku Adnan was a Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department while Eusoff had already retired for about a year.

As word got out that Dr Mahathir's turn to testify had been delayed, some who had turned up in the afternoon specifically to see him in court were clearly disappointed.

When they found out that he would appear in court today, many said they would be back.



Dad not present: Mokhzani entering the Jalan Duta court complex yesterday. He was there to accompany his father who was scheduled to take the witness stand, but Dr Mahathir's turn to testify was later postponed to 10am today.