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## Dr M: I'm already guilty, why appeal?

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday he would not seek judicial review of the findings by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Lingam video clip.

Instead, the former prime minister said he was prepared to go to the court.

"I am already guilty. Because of the basis of the Royal Commission, if something is possible, then it must have happened if it is possible. Because it was possible that I was influenced by Lingam therefore I must be influenced by Lingam.

"This is the new criteria for evidence in the court of law. So I am guilty already. So what's good of my appealing?" he said.

Mahathir said he had to submit to this new standard that was prevailing in this country.

He was asked to comment whether he would seek judicial review just as former minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku

Mansor, tycoon Tan Sri Vincent Tan and lawyer Datuk V.K. Lingam did recently.

Mahathir was speaking to reporters after attending the launching of *Smart Growth*, a book written by Prof Salleh Buang, by his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali at the Perdana Leadership Foundation, here.

Asked whether he was guilty as charged, Mahathir replied cynically: "Guilty as judged. There are brilliant people on the royal commission. There are judges, experienced judges who said that it is possible that I was influenced therefore I must be investigated."

"I am not going to appeal. I am going to attend court," he said.

Lingam was implicated in the 14-minute controversial video clip which the commission said showed him in conversation over judicial appointments with retired Chief Justice Tun Ahmad Fairuz

Sheikh Abdul Halim.

Based on the commission's finding, both Tengku Adnan and Tan were said to have had direct influence in the appointment and promotion of judges.

The panel had also recommended that Lingam, Mahathir, Tengku Adnan, Tan, Ahmad Fairuz and retired chief justice Tun Mohd Eusoff Chin be investigated under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1961, the Sedition Act 1961, the Legal Profession Act 1976, the Official Secrets Act 1972 and the Penal Code.

Commenting on Kota Kinabalu High Court Judge Datuk Ian H.C Chin maintaining his allegation that he (Mahathir) had made veiled threats against judges by dropping words to the effect 'here and there' during the judges' conference in 1997, Mahathir said: "I also heard hints here and there that he is a corrupt judge."

- Bernama