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Dr M cries foul over Lingam tape report

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SHAH ALAM: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad alleged yesterday the report of the Royal Commission into the Lingam tape affair was aimed at incriminating him.

"Every attempt is made in order to incriminate me," said Mahathir, who claimed he had read extracts of the report.

"Somehow or other, they are trying to suggest that the appointment of judges was influenced by a lot of other people, and although there is no direct connection with me, if you read between the lines, it suggests that the prime minister is biased and things like that."

Mahathir alleged this was former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's doing as Anwar had "purposefully" exposed the tape to undermine lawyer Datuk V.K. Lingam's credibility.

"Lingam happens to be my lawyer. He is defending me against Anwar, and now he (Anwar) has succeeded in making Lingam no longer credible, and therefore, he cannot defend me in the court of law," he told reporters.

"So, to that point, he has achieved great success but I have always emphasised, when people make such recordings secretly, the intention is to blackmail. I'm afraid the government made successful the blackmail attempt," he lamented.

Mahathir also alleged that Anwar, who is the PKR adviser and Pakatan Rakyat de facto leader, had tampered with the video as he had released the tape in two parts.

"This constitutes tampering of evidence. We don't know what he kept behind and how many small tapes he has. Of course, this will be used in time to blackmail and, of course, the moment I say this, Anwar must be thinking 'I must sue him for another RM100 million'."

"I can't pay RM100 million if I'm found guilty. But if I have to go to jail, I'll go to jail, if I'm to be made a bankrupt, I'll be a bankrupt. That's all right."