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Dr M: It's not logical that Anwar was set up

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad dismissed reports that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy charges were the result of entrapment by his political enemies.

The former prime minister said yesterday an entrapment operation was impossible given the amount of cooperation needed from various parties.

"It would need an army to set up someone like Anwar, especially given his position at the time.

"You're talking about convincing some 150 people, from the police to the attorney-general, to lie about something like this.

"It's just not logical," he said after opening The Loaf bakery at a shopping complex here.

He was commenting on Australian newspaper reports that Singaporean intelligence officials believed that An-

war was guilty of sodomy charges and that this was the result of a trap which Anwar knowingly walked into.

The reports were based on information released by whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks.

Dr Mahathir said he believed Singapore's Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew knew about Anwar's conduct based on information provided by Singaporean intelligence officers.

"Yes, even if he was unclear on some things, I'm sure he suspected as

much," he said, adding that he was not surprised that Singaporean intelligence, as well as those of other countries, were keeping track of Malaysian politics.

"They will not acknowledge it but countries like Singapore, Australia and the United States are keeping tabs on us."

The WikiLeaks reports had been obtained from an intercepted US State Department diplomatic cable dated November 2008.