

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	13 June 2015

PM: My duty is to entire nation, not one man

NST
-13/6/2015

SHAME: Dr M's attacks on IMDB merely an excuse to topple me, says Najib

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent allegations against the government are false and fuelled by self-interest, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

In a statement posted on his website, NajibRazak.com, yesterday, Najib said he was the target of deliberate attacks by Dr Mahathir for refusing to give in to the latter's demands.

"He (Dr Mahathir) wants me to resign, as he previously wanted Tun Abdullah Badawi to resign, because I refused to implement his personal demands.

"I refused because it is my duty as Malaysia's democratically-elected prime minister to lead this country and do what I believe is right for the entire nation, not one man," Najib said, adding that the people did not want a former PM to rule by proxy.

Najib said Dr Mahathir's recent allegation against Malaysia Development Bhd (IMDB) was merely an attempt to topple a serving prime

minister. He said although steps were being taken to investigate the allegations surrounding IMDB, Dr Mahathir seemed disinterested with the probe.

"This is because Dr Mahathir's attacks are not motivated by IMDB — he is just using the company as an excuse to try and topple a serving prime minister. If IMDB had never existed, Tun would find another reason.

"It is a shame that Dr Mahathir has, yet again, turned against the leadership of his own party. These public attacks will only harm Umno, the government and, ultimately, Malaysia.

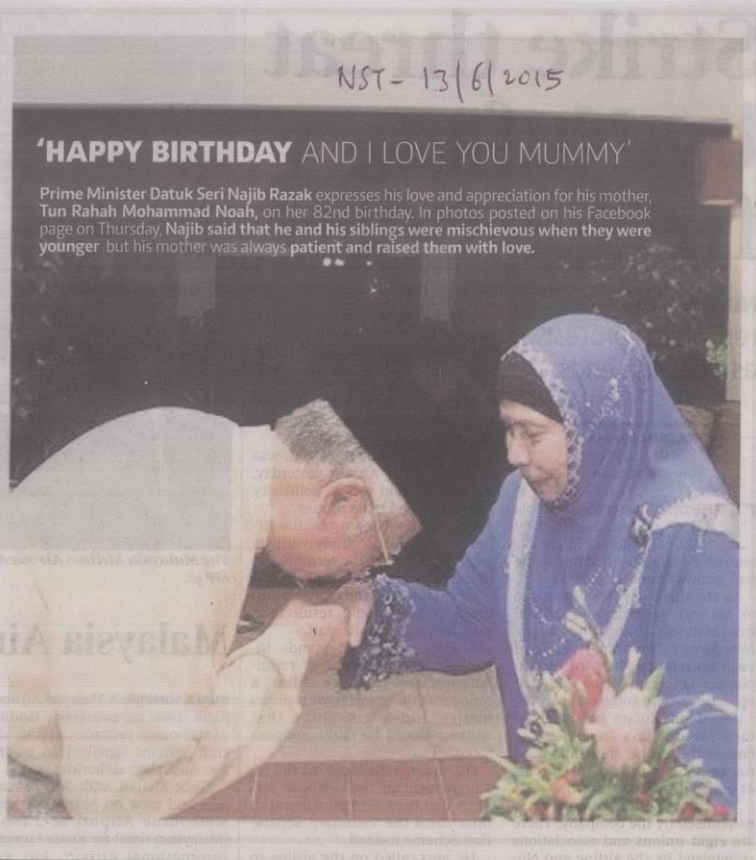
"This unbecoming behaviour will be an unfortunate postscript to his legacy."

He said Dr Mahathir had created a crisis and unnecessary panic by claiming that RM42 billion was missing from IMDB.

"Had Dr Mahathir stuck to the facts and made clear that the RM42 billion is, in fact, debt, then it would be a different story.

"This is because a company has to have assets of a higher value to provide collateral against its debts. "In the case of IMDB, the RM42

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NST-13/6/2015

'HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND I LOVE YOU MUMMY'

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak expresses his love and appreciation for his mother, Tun Rahah Mohammad Noah, on her 82nd birthday. In photos posted on his Facebook page on Thursday, Najib said that he and his siblings were mischievous when they were younger but his mother was always patient and raised them with love.

billion debt, is backed by RM51 billion assets, as at the 2014 financial closing. But he chooses to ignore this."

Najib pointed out that Dr Mahathir's allegations had a negative effect on the public and economy.

"After IMDB disclosed the whereabouts of the RM42 billion, Dr Mahathir then said some billions were lost. This shifting of numbers and arguments casts serious doubt on his claims. Regardless, because he is a former head of government, the market and public sentiment have been negatively influenced."

Najib also gave his assurance that all entities under the government, including IMDB, would be run well.

"It is for this reason that I instructed the Auditor General to conduct an enquiry into IMDB, and for this report to then be passed to the bipartisan Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for transparent scrutiny.

"If anyone is deemed to have engaged in wrongdoing, I will insist that the law is enforced without exception," he stressed.

On Dr Mahathir's recent claim that Barisan Nasional would lose the next general election, Najib said

he was confident of the people's support for the ruling coalition.

"If we in BN stay united and prove ourselves worthy over the coming years, I have faith that the rakyat will prove Dr Mahathir wrong at the next election — once it's understood that his allegations are false and motivated by self-interest, not Malaysia's interest."

Najib said no individual had the right to speak for the entire voting public.

"(Also), the opposition is in chaos, and, given their coalition's fundamental ideological splits, there would be national paralysis if they assumed office."