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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's attacks on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has earned the ire of another senior Umno leader.

On issues raised by Dr Mahathir concerning the murder of Mongolian model Altantuya Shaariibuu, Umno supreme council member Datuk Dr Puad Zarkashi yesterday said it seemed that the former premier was intent on devising a negative perception against Najib.

On Jan 13, the Federal Court restored the conviction and death sentence against Special Action Unit commandos Azilah Hadri and Sirul Azhar Umar for the murder of Altantuya in 2006.

Puad, who is Batu Pahat Umno division chief, lambasted Dr Mahathir for accusing Najib to have failed in responding to issues raised.

"It is as if Dr Mahathir had wanted to create a preconceived idea, that there was new evidence in relation to the 'instructions' for Sirul to commit the murder. Is Dr Mahathir trying to implicate the prime minister in the case?"

"Back then he had insulted Pak Lah (former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi). And now, he wants to do the same to Najib?" said Puad in a statement yesterday.