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# 'Dr M should say sorry to Najib'

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad owes Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak an apology, now that Saudi Arabia has confirmed that the RM2.6 billion the latter received was indeed a donation from the kingdom.

Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Dr Mohd Puad Zarkashi said Dr Mahathir was "obligated to apologise to Najib" and he had to stop instigating the people.

"If he continues exploiting the issue, he should be sued," he said yesterday, referring to Dr Mahathir's attempts to remove Najib.

Puad said Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir's confirmation on Thursday was in sync with the Public Accounts Committee's findings that the sum was not stolen from 1 Malaysia Development Bhd (IMDB).

"Dr Mahathir and suspended Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin should feel embarrassed as they have frequently lied about it. This shows that they don't want to

find out the truth but prefer to further their personal agendas.

"I am sure they are disappointed and bitter with the revelation by the Saudi foreign minister. This also shows his (Dr Mahathir's) invitation to foreign parties to help topple Najib has failed to gain traction."

He added that Dr Mahathir's disappointment would be compounded by his unattainable ambition of making his son, Mukhriz, the next prime minister.

MCA religious harmony bureau chairman Datuk Ti Lian Ker said Dr Mahathir should apologise to Malaysians for slandering Najib over the RM2.6 billion donation.

"Dr Mahathir should come clean and admit that he was wrong. He promised not to interfere in the nation's affairs after retiring but look at what he's doing. He has done enough damage to the nation."



**Datuk Dr Mohd Puad Zarkashi**

Ti advised Malaysians to exercise caution and not be swayed by rumours, as doing so could hurt the nation's political and economic stability.

Political analyst Professor Dr Zaid Ahmad of Universiti Putra Malaysia, however, said the revelation would not stop Dr Mahathir from attacking Najib.

"It will not be easy to convince him to give up. The large donation involved two countries and I am certain he will raise more issues."

He said while Al-Jubeir's statement had vindicated Najib and provided clarity

about the source of the funds, more had to be done to end Dr Mahathir's campaign.

"The statement by the Saudi minister came at a time when a lot of damage has been done. It would have been better for the Saudi government to say something sooner to nip the issue in the bud."