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Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad speaking at the Parti Pribumi Bersatu press conference in Bukit Bandaraya, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. With him are **Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin** (right) and **Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir**. Pic by Aizuddin Saad

Dr M: Task force betrayed by one of its own

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'RUMOURS': If betrayal didn't happen, PM would have faced legal action, alleges ex-premier

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday claimed that the three prominent figures who were part of the task force entrusted to carry out investigation on the prime minister, had been betrayed by one of their own.

Describing the trio — former governor of Bank Negara Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz, former attorney-general Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail and former Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission chief commissioner Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed — as “upright”, Dr Mahathir said if the betrayal did not happen, Datuk Seri Najib Razak “would have faced legal action by now”.

“I think Zeti is an upright person, and so is Abu Kassim, and also Gani Patail.

“But you know, they were betrayed by one among them. Otherwise, Najib would have faced court action right now,” said Dr Mahathir at a press conference yesterday.

Dr Mahathir's comments came on the heels of allegations that he

had been conspiring with the three to oust Najib from office.

“There is no truth at all. I wish we can do that. I wish very much,” he said.

However, when asked to clarify on the identity of the “traitor”, and the person he meant by “one among them”, the former prime minister was quick to point out that his statement was mere hearsay.

Dr Mahathir also cited the possible legal risk if he were to speak further on the matter.

“Well, these are rumours, I cannot say. I cannot have them (the alleged traitor) suing me, because I don't have the kind of money that Najib has,” he said.

Umno Youth vice-chief Khairul Azwan Harun had alleged that Zeti, together with Gani and Abu Kassim were in cahoots with Dr Mahathir to bring down Najib.

Khairul Azwan also claimed he managed to “thwart” Dr Mahathir's plans after lodging a police report on July 26.

He alleged that the trio were scheduled for a special media conference where they would substantiate claims made by the United States Department of Justice concerning iMalaysia Development Bhd.

“A video recording of the conference was to be sent to Dr Mahathir who was in Jakarta.

“There, Dr Mahathir would be holding another media conference where he planned to reveal the clip,” claimed Khairul Azwan, in his speech to open the Teluk Kemang Umno wings' divisional meeting on Saturday.