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# Dr Mahathir is obsessed with control, says Najib

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**PETALING JAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is one of his fiercest critics, is “obsessed about control”.

Admitting that his predecessor had been his mentor and strongly supported him, Najib said Dr Mahathir, however, has a controlling tendency.

“He wants to play a role in state decisions even though he is no longer prime minister,” Najib said when asked about his relationship with Dr Mahathir in an interview with Indonesia’s MetroTV.

The interview, recorded during the Prime Minister’s visit to Jakarta recently, was aired on TV1 last night.

Najib also said a recent lawsuit by the US Department of Justice (DoJ) does not involve him, the Malaysian Government or sovereign wealth fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) directly.

Last month, US Attorney-General Loretta Lynch announced a civil action seeking the recovery of more than US\$1bil (RM4.02bil) worth of assets linked to a conspiracy to laun-

der funds taken from 1MDB.

Najib has come under attack from the Opposition and sections of the public over allegations of corruption linked to the debt-laden 1MDB and deposits into his personal account worth around US\$680mil (RM2.7bil).

He has denied any wrongdoing and maintains that the source of the money was not 1MDB.

He has also said those funds were not used for personal gain.

Malaysia’s Attorney-General has said the money was a gift from the Saudi royal family, and most of it was subsequently returned to them.

“I want to say that what was done by the DoJ recently does not involve me, or the Malaysian Government, or 1MDB directly,” Najib said.

“The suit named five people. This is not a criminal suit, but a civil suit,” he added.

The 1MDB issue is a business issue but it has been politicised by “certain enemies”, he said.