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Dr M's pledge on Quran will settle issue, says Raja Petra

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KUALA LUMPUR: Blogger Raja Petra Kamarudin said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's pledge to swear on the Quran if anyone felt that his claims against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak were lies or slander would settle the matter once and for all.

In his posting on his website titled "Okay, Mahathir, we accept your challenge", Raja Petra wrote that the irony of Dr Mahathir's challenge was that, once both sides took an oath, then the matter was settled and the issue could no longer be prolonged.

"Dr Mahathir can no longer raise the matter and keep repeating the allegation.

"And since Dr Mahathir has agreed that the matter be handed over to Allah to handle, then the file is closed and can get stamped NFA:RTA (No Further Action: Refer To Allah)."

Quoting Dr Mahathir, Raja Petra said the former prime minister had said he (Dr Mahathir) was prepared to swear on the Quran if anyone felt that his claims against Najib were lies or slander.

"If what I say is considered slander or untrue, then ask me to take an oath.

"I will do it. If I ask others to swear, I must be ready to do it, with the right intentions," Dr Mahathir said on Saturday.

He said the person making the oath should not try to cheat by vowing something else in his heart, and swearing something else.

Raja Petra said taking an oath on the Quran was a delicate matter.

Even Muslim scholars were divided on the rules or *hukum*.

The London-based blogger said the issue Dr Mahathir had raised was that Najib stole RM42 billion of 1MDB's (1Malaysia Development Bhd) money and that RM42 billion had disappeared into thin air.

"So, the focus of the oath should be on that allegation.

"This oath can be taken in any mosque in front of an imam (who can guide you on the proper format or protocol for that oath) with witnesses present (to testify that the oath was properly taken).

"So, Dr Mahathir will have to swear, "In the name of Allah, I, Mahathir Mohamad, swear that Najib Razak stole RM42 billion of 1MDB's money and that the RM42 billion which Najib Razak stole has all disappeared into thin air."

He said if Najib wanted to respond, he, too, could take an oath saying, "In the name of Allah, I, Najib Razak, swear that I did not steal RM42 billion of 1MDB's money and that the RM42 billion has not all disappeared into thin air."



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad