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'Dr M has no locus standi to sue PM'

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'PUBLICITY STUNT': He's not directly affected by cases linked to Najib, says deputy minister

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad does not have locus standi to sue the prime minister, said Deputy Home Minister Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed.

Dr Mahathir did not have legal standing to sue as he was neither a party directly affected by the cases involving Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak nor was he linked to them, he said at the Parliament lobby-yesterday.

Nur Jazlan was referring to the claims by Dr Mahathir in a suit, which stated that Najib had undermined, subverted and compromised the institutions investigating 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) and related companies, as well as the probes into the transfer of the RM2.6 billion donation and RM42 million from SRC. International into his personal bank accounts.

Dr Mahathir, former Batu Kawan Umno vice-chief Datuk Seri Khairuddin Abu Hassan and former Umno member Anina Saadudin are seeking a High Court order for Najib to pay RM2.6 billion in exemplary damages and RM42 million in aggravated damages to the government.

Asked on the amount of damages that the trio was seeking,

Nur Jazlan dismissed it as a "publicity stunt".

Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak yesterday said Dr Mahathir was desperate to topple the government.

He said Dr Mahathir had failed to topple the government through Umno despite making false accusations.

"Dr Mahathir has run out of options. The suit shows that he has no political channels left."

Umno information chief Tan Sri Annuar Musa described the move as an admission of defeat.

"Going to court is just another strategy. Anyone can go to court. We respect his desire to do so.

"He admits that he has failed and lost politically because he has no support from the people. That is why he has resorted to filing a suit," Annuar said after meeting MCA leaders here yesterday.

He said Dr Mahathir's claims against Najib was to prolong the hate campaign he was waging against the prime minister.

"In the end, it is the people who will decide. They will support whoever speaks the truth."

On Jan 26, Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali had said there was no criminal offence committed in relation to the funds remitted into Najib's bank accounts.