

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	8 JULY 2017

# PM: Dr M's U-turn due to forex probe

The Star - 8/7/2017 Pg. 2

## Ex-premier fears being criminally implicated in RCI over trading losses, says Najib

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's sudden "U-turn" to back his former arch nemesis for the prime minister's post is due to his concerns of being criminally implicated by the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Malaysia's previous massive forex trading losses, says Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister said in reality, Dr Mahathir's new appeasement of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was driven by his deep concern about the Cabinet's decision to form a RCI to investigate the truth behind Bank Negara's RM30bil forex losses during his premiership, as detailed in the Special Task Force report.

"Dr Mahathir knows that the RCI



“He (Dr Mahathir) cannot afford to have individuals relevant to the case, such as Anwar, testifying against him.”

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak

findings could lead to criminal prosecution, so he cannot afford to have individuals highly relevant to the case, such as Anwar, testifying against him," Najib said in a statement last night.

Labelling the Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia founder as "unprincipled", the PM said Dr Mahathir would do anything in order to achieve his desired end.

"Anwar may fall for this, but I

believe the nation will not.

"Because with only one parliamentary seat, the chairman of Pribumi cannot decide who becomes prime minister. It would be grossly undemocratic," he added.

Najib said Dr Mahathir's crusade against the Barisan Nasional-led government was solely motivated by his obsession in saving his family legacy and to eventually install his son Datuk Seri Mukhriz as the next PM.

"Dr Mahathir who demanded that Tun Abdullah Badawi resign as prime minister, now demands my resignation, and will demand that my successor resigns until his son becomes prime minister - whatever the cost to Malaysia.

"This time, we will not let him succeed, because the democratic process must prevail, and the interests of the country must come before Dr Mahathir's family," he added.

On Jan 26, former Bank Negara assistant governor Datuk Abdul Murad Khalid revealed that the central bank suffered US\$10bil (RM42.9bil) in foreign exchange market losses in the early 1990s, much higher than the RM9bil disclosed.

Subsequently, a seven-member Special Task Force headed by former Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan, was formed on Feb 15 this year.