

# 'MACC CHIEF USING MIRZAN TO TARGET ME'

Defiant Dr M says he is prepared to face graft rap, challenges PM to call snap polls

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**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Tan Sri Azam Baki was "going through" his son to get to him.

Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission chief commissioner had told his son that it was the former prime minister that was suspected of wrongdoing.

"I want to ask Azam. Who is making the accusations? Why didn't he tell me?"

"Why did he tell my son that there is an accusation and he has to declare his assets?"

"If you charge a person, you have to tell him what they are being charged with so that I can defend myself, but there's none and my son was asked to declare his assets just to show that maybe I did something wrong," he said.

The MACC had last week served businessman Mirzan Mahathir a notice to declare all of his assets within 30 days.

The anti-graft agency said the notice was issued in relation to information in the Panama and Pandora Papers.

On Sunday, Dr Mahathir said his son had also been threatened with five years' jail after he was accused of abusing his power and amassing billions of ringgit when

he was prime minister.

He said certain figures named in the Pandora Papers did not face the same level of scrutiny.

Dr Mahathir also said there was a lack of evidence against him and that he had filed a defamation suit against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim so that evidence could be presented in court.

Dr Mahathir also denied Anwar's claim that it was difficult to investigate Tuns.

He unfolded a copy of the *New Straits Times* to show its front page with the headline "Not easy to investigate a Tun".

"It is harder to investigate those in power, especially the prime minister, senior ministers and the chief commissioner of the MACC rather than Tuns," he added.

"I want to say that I disagree that it is not easy to investigate a Tun because I can be easily investigated as the government has the power. I don't have any power," Dr Mahathir said at the Perdana Leadership Foundation here yesterday.

He said Anwar was not being investigated despite allegations of corruption in former Bank Negara Malaysia governor Datuk Abdul Murad Khalid's four-page statutory declaration.

Dr Mahathir said Tun Daim Zainuddin was instead being investigated, showing that it was easy to investigate a Tun.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad with a copy of the front page of the 'New Straits Times' with the headline 'Not easy to investigate a Tun'. He says the authorities should furnish evidence of the billions of ringgit he is alleged to have amassed. PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

"The deputy prime minister (Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi) was charged in court on 47 counts and suddenly the deputy public prosecutor and the attorney-general had stopped the prosecution, which shows that even the A-G cannot investigate (big shots).

"The people want to know whether Murad's accusations are true but the A-G said they have the power to not explain (not to prosecute).

"In our country, the one that holds more power than the chief justice is the A-G. Even federal court judges have to have grounds of judgment but the A-G doesn't have to explain."

Murad had alleged 24 years ago that Anwar had RM3 billion in more than 20 bank accounts.

Dr Mahathir said he was prepared to be investigated and his bank accounts, Inland Revenue Board statements and other documents were available to enforcement agencies.

"I'm prepared to be investigated, you can check all my bank accounts, IRB statements and everything ... the government can access.

"The government can also ask Petronas whether it is true I amassed billions. You can investigate that. I was told that my name (has been linked to) wrongdoing, so that is what I should face (investigation)," he said.

Dr Mahathir challenged Anwar to make a statutory declaration that he had taken billions of ringgit in government funds and provide the evidence.

"I have asked him to present the evidence but there's no such evidence. I asked him to retract and explain his evidence but there's no response.

"Now the case is in court for defamation that I have stolen billions. So show your boxes of evidence, including bank statements, that I have stolen the funds but he said it's a government secret.

"What is still a secret when you already told the whole world that you have the evidence? Show your evidence," he said.

Last year, Dr Mahathir filed a RM150 million defamation suit against Anwar, alleging that the prime minister had said he was racist and had enriched himself and his family during his 22 years in power.

He claimed Anwar made the statements in his speech during PKR's special national congress at the Melawati Stadium in Shah Alam on March 18.

During the special congress, Anwar had referred to someone "who in the past had been in power for 22 years and an additional 22 months" as taking advantage of his position to enrich himself and his family.

On April 7, Anwar said he would provide evidence of Dr Mahathir exploiting his position to benefit himself and his family.

Dr Mahathir yesterday also challenged Anwar to call a general election to prove that the people still supported the government. He claimed that Anwar had no idea how to tackle the economic, political and social problems in the country.

Dr Mahathir said Anwar was afraid of his own shadow by claiming that there was an effort to topple the government.

"He (Anwar) doesn't know how to help the people. So, he keeps on wanting to fight corruption. But he has released those involved in corruption," he said.