

**Najib safe abroad because of 'high position', says Dr Mahathir**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**Sept 30, 2015**  
**By Anisah Shukry**

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad now believes no action will be taken against Datuk Seri Najib Razak for alleged money laundering while he is abroad due to his "high position", which the former prime minister said exempts him from the law.

Dr Mahathir, who had previously speculated that Najib may be arrested by Interpol, said he did not believe the international community would act against the prime minister during his ongoing visit to the United States.

"I don't think the international community will do anything. Because, you know, they are against money laundering. If we find money that is questionable, we freeze the account, but they did nothing.

"So all this talk about money laundering is only confined to small people. If I do some money laundering I may be arrested. But if you are holding a high position, you are exempted," he told a press conference after speaking at a forum on inculcating character building in virtual education in Kuala Lumpur today.

Dr Mahathir said this was why United States President Barack Obama was able to get away with allegedly committing human rights violation.

He believed that in Malaysia, Najib would also escape prosecution because Malaysians were a "tolerant" lot.

"I don't see any movement against him, because we are a tolerant people. If we lose a few billion, it's okay. We can raise it through the goods and services tax," said Dr Mahathir.

Najib has come under intense criticism over the financial scandals surrounding state investment vehicle 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) and for receiving RM2.6 billion in political donations.

The Wall Street Journal reported on September 20 that the Federal Bureau of Investigation started investigations into allegations of money laundering.

On September 18, Dr Mahathir drew a grim picture on the possibility of Najib being arrested by Interpol if foreign countries investigate the prime minister for alleged money laundering.

"He could also be arrested if he left the country. So he has to remain here, like how he withdrew the passports of some people and barred them from going overseas," the statesman said in a video uploaded on the blog "Din Turtle".

He said if countries like Switzerland, England and the United States believe that Najib

had allegedly been involved in money laundering, they could enlist Interpol to arrest him. – September 30, 2015.

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