

Cops to record Dr Mahathir's statement today, says IGP
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Police will question Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today over his recent blog posting questioning the credibility of Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali, says the inspector-general of police.

Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said police would have to carry out their duty after several reports were lodged against the former prime minister over his blog post.

"We will have to record his statement on his blog posting. We have received several reports. We have to investigate," Khalid told reporters at the officers' mess at the federal police headquarters in Bukit Aman this morning.

Police are taking Dr Mahathir's statement after Khalid on February 8 said those not happy with Dr Mahathir's blog post attacking the attorney-general (A-G) should lodge a report so that police can investigate the former prime minister.

"In certain cases we don't need a report but in this case, we will wait for a report (to be lodged)," he said.

Several reports followed and on February 15, Khalid told reporters at a function in Penang that police were investigating Dr Mahathir for criminal defamation over his blog post on Apandi.

"I am not sure how many reports have been lodged but they were lodged one or two days ago.

"We have started investigation for defamation under Section 500 of the Penal Code," he said.

Section 500 of the Penal Code touches on defamation and carries a two-year jail term, a fine, or both upon conviction.

In a posting on his blog on February 5, Dr Mahathir had attacked Apandi over his decision not to charge the prime minister, saying the country's top prosecutor had no credibility.

He also said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak should resign if Malaysia were to regain its reputation.

"To clear Malaysia's good name and his own, Najib must prove beyond a shadow of doubt that he is innocent of all the accusations against him. The A-G saying he is innocent means nothing.

"He, the A-G, has no credibility.

"Failing this, Najib should resign," Dr Mahathir said.

The former prime minister has been criticising Apandi since the A-G's decision last month not to press charges against Najib over the RM2.6 billion donation and the Finance Ministry-owned SRC International Sdn Bhd, citing a lack of evidence.

Dr Mahathir said the A-G had acted as both judge and prosecutor in the matter, and accused him of being under Najib's control.

He also criticised Apandi for closing the case on Bank Negara Malaysia's findings on 1Malaysia Development Bhd's inaccurate declarations for overseas investments.

Before this, Dr Mahathir was also investigated for defamation after making statements at the Bersih 4 rally last year.

After giving his statement, Dr Mahathir said he would leave it to the police to decide if he should be arrested over his criticism of Najib.

"It is up to them," he told reporters. – February 24, 2016.

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