

Dr M to seek court intervention over RCI report

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Pakatan Harapan chairperson Dr Mahathir Mohamad's legal team is preparing to mount a challenge against the report by the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) on Bank Negara's foreign exchange (forex) losses in the 1990s and will be filing papers in court soon.

The lawyer for Mahathir, Mohd Haniff Khatri Abdulla said the deadline for the RCI to respond to Mahathir's letter of demand had lapsed on Friday last week, and he had yet to receive a response as of yesterday.

"We are preparing the cause papers. In the very near future, we will file the necessary application in court and we will inform you," Haniff told reporters outside the Court of Appeal today.

The [letter of demand](#) sent on Dec 4 demanded that the commission include Mahathir's submissions in its report, threatening legal action if the RCI failed to abide by the request.

Haniff (*photo*) had previously told *Malaysiakini* that Mahathir had provided 495 pages of [supporting documents](#) and written submissions, and its omission from the RCI report means "it contains half-baked stories which are just to further the conniving and dishonest intentions of the ruling party".

The letter claimed that three written requests by Mahathir, written submissions by his lawyers and the transcript of the proceeding on the submissions and the requests were missing from the 524-page report, which was tabled in Parliament on Nov 30.

"Findings are one thing; they (the RCI panel) have the right to say whatever they want. Whether we challenge the findings or not, is a different story.

"But when one reads the report, one needs to know not only the findings but what are the materials. Then people can compare.

"It is like in the courts, where you have the court file – you have the statement of claims, statement of defence, and all the way up to submissions. Not only that, judges write judgments, you can find out what it is about.

"In the RCI, you can only look at the report. If the material is not in the report, then it is not a proper report. It is not fair," Haniff said.

The RCI report tabled in Parliament concluded that Bank Negara lost RM31.5 billion speculating in the forex market between 1992 and 1999.

Among others, it also blamed Mahathir and his then deputy Anwar Ibrahim for **withholding information** about the losses from the cabinet and recommended an **investigation** against them.

The report also said Mahathir and Anwar had likely abetted Nor Mohamed Yakcop, who was then in charge of Bank Negara's forex operations.

Police have opened **investigations** for fraud, criminal breach of trust and cheating in the matter following a **police report** lodged by RCI secretary Yusof Ismail.

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