

**Be strong, Mahathir tells Rafizi**  
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Dr Mahathir Mohamad has advised PKR vice-president Rafizi Ramli not to be disappointed with the 30 months in prison sentenced on him by the Shah Alam Sessions Court.

“Rafizi, be strong. Don't be disappointed,” the Pakatan Harapan chairperson said in a brief video posted on Facebook this morning.

The 92-year-old former prime minister pointed out that a struggle takes time, and it might result in victory or defeat.

“But we must continue with the struggle for the sake of 'bangsa dan negara' (race and nation),” Mahathir added.

Mahathir is currently warded at the National Heart Institute (IJN) in Kuala Lumpur due to a chest infection.

Last Wednesday, the Sessions Court imposed the prison term on Rafizi for revealing bank accounts related to the National Feedlot Corporation's (NFC) subsidiary companies and its executive chairperson Mohamad Salleh Ismail six years ago.

Judge Zamri Bakar also jailed former Public Bank clerk Johari Mohamad for 30 months for abetting Rafizi. They were found guilty under the Banking and Financial Institutions Act (Bafia).

However, the court allowed a stay of execution of the jail sentences to allow their lawyers, Ahmad Nizam Hamid and Latheefa Koya, to file appeals.

In an interview with *Malaysiakini* last Friday, Rafizi addressed the concern surrounding the court decision's effect on whistleblowing and investigative journalism.

The PKR vice-president was unperturbed by this concern and believes the rakyat are more empowered than ever before to expose the truth.

“Before this, you might have felt alone (due to the) knowledge that you might be the only one saying it, and if they come, they come only for you.

“But when we have Facebook and Twitter, you can very easily verify if an issue reverberates with the rest of the public. Overwhelmingly, more people are coming forward to become volunteers, to give money, to 'whack' Prime Minister Najib (Abdul Razak) online.

“You are not alone, you are the majority, you know you are the rakyat. This balances out whatever Najib and BN try to do in terms of trying to send a chilling message to the public,” Rafizi said.

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