

04/11/2000

Ezam: I stand by what I have said

ALOR STAR, Fri. - Keadilan Youth chief Ezam Mohd Noor "surrendered" himself voluntarily to police at the Kota Setar police headquarters today.

This follows a police report made against him on Oct 27 by an Umno branch leader from the Kuala Kedah division who accused him of sedition.

Ezam did not make a statement upon "surrendering", choosing instead "the right to remain silent".

Ezam has been heavily criticised since Utusan Malaysia reported recently that he had been involved in smear campaigns against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the United States and Europe.

Ezam arrived at the police station at 3.15pm accompanied by some 200 supporters and left about an hour later.

He told the investigating officer that he "will only answer questions posed to me in court".

"It's now up to them but I'm prepared to go to court anytime," he told reporters. "I stand by what I have said," he added.

Ezam said he was prepared to stand trial to answer accusations he was a traitor for smearing the PM's name overseas.

Asked if there were indications he would be charged, Ezam said: "From what I've been reading they not only want to charge me but to expel me from the country. So let's see what they'll do."

Ezam said that at a scheduled ceramah at the Pas headquarters in Taman Melewar, Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday he would make public how Dr Mahathir had smeared former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman's name in a foreign country in 1971.

He declined to give further details about this.

Later, Ezam ignored a police order not to make speeches to his supporters outside the police station.

After speaking for about three minutes, he and the supporters were ordered to disperse by the police.

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