

Organisers at fault

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2,000 people in 800 capacity hall was asking for trouble, says Mahathir

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PETALING JAYA Mon The fight between rival supporters at the Selangor Open Sepaktakraw Championship at the Shah Alam City Council Hall could have happened because the organisers sold more tickets than there were seats

Sepaktakraw Association of Malaysia (STAM) coordinator Mahathir Mohammad said the hall

could only take about 800 spectators and there were only 100 seats available

Instead there were at least 2 000 people in the hall and many were forced to move their chairs to the edge of the court

Mahathir said the organisers were to be blamed for selling too many tickets in yesterday's final

Supporters had to sit near the court just behind the sponsors advertisement boards and most of them were Kelantan fans

The fight started moments after

Selangor took the title with a 2 1 victory We always expected the Kelantanese fans to cause some problems but I never thought it would turn ugly said Mahathir

The Kelantan people are very passionate when it comes to their home state and I think the loss against Selangor triggered the whole incident

During the tournament the Kelantan fans were the only bunch who were making a lot of noise and I think this riled up the Selangor supporters

But until now I still don't know how the commotion actually started Some claim that a Kelantan player was struck by a water bottle but I did not witness that incident

I will be having a meeting with both parties soon to get a clearer picture about the incident

I will file a report after the meeting and I will be handing it over to STAM council members to take further action he said

He said PSM would insist on better security at the Kelantan Open in June