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13 Opposition activists held in bid to hand out leaflets

BENTONG, Sun. - Thirteen Opposition party activists were arrested by police as they were allegedly preparing to distribute leaflets criticising Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the wet market here today.

They included Batu Gajah Member of Parliament Fong Po Kuan, Pahang DAP chairman Lip Tuck Chee and Bentong DAP division chairman Choong Siew Onn.

"All were taken to the district police headquarters to have their statements recorded before being released at noon after posting bail at RM1,000 each," district acting police chief Deputy Superintendent Mohamad Yusoff Mohamood said.

Another activist, a teacher, who was also arrested for participating in the gathering, was released unconditionally.

Mohamad Yusoff said a 60-strong police team were put on alert after receiving information of the gathering by the activists, mainly from the DAP.

The 13, five of them women, were arrested at 9am before they could begin their campaign demanding for the rights of non-Muslim minorities to be safeguarded.

Mohamad Yusoff said police seized 217 booklets, 444 pamphlets and a banner from them.

The 13 would have to report to the police headquarters in a month's time, while police carry out investigations under the Sedition Act, 1948.

Offenders face a three-year jail sentence and a fine.