

## **Dr M: Focus on Bersih protest against PM, not Soros funding**

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Former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad says he is more focused on Bersih's protest against Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak than the organisation's funding allegedly linked to US billionaire George Soros.

"For now, I am only focusing on the protest against Najib, I am not involved with the group's source of funding," Mahathir is quoted as saying in a *Sinar Harian* report.

He added that the Soros-linked funding allegation is aimed at scuttling the Bersih 5 rally on Nov 19.

"I feel this is their (opponents') modus operandi to cancel the Bersih rally," he said.

The Bersih 5 rally, will among others, call for the resignation of Najib over the 1MDB scandal.

Najib has denied wrongdoing and or taking public funds for personal gain.

Soros-linked Open Society Foundations (OSF) said it gave small grants to Bersih in 2011/2012 but is no longer funding the organisation.

The red-shirts group, led by Sungai Besar Umno division chief Jamal Md Yunos, has accused OSF of funding to overthrow the Malaysian government.

OSF has denied this, stressing that its purpose is to support justice, accountability and democratic practice across the world.

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