

'The tarik' with Dr M too bitter for Umno man
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Citing safety issues, an Umno man has lodged a police report against a Malacca event on Sunday featuring Pakatan Harapan chairperson Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Tampoi Umno branch secretary Zamani Dirin lodged the report at the Tanjung Minyak police station yesterday against the event dubbed 'A Teh Tarik Session with Dr Mahathir'.

The event, scheduled for 4.30 pm this Sunday, is to be held at the compound of a private house at Kampung Tampoi which is part of the Tangga Batu constituency in Malacca.

"I was at home when I received flyers from Pakatan Harapan entitled 'Teh Tarik session with Mahathir on Feb 25 Sunday, at 4.30pm at 921-1 Batu 7 1/2 Kampung Tampoi, Malacca'.

"As a Umno branch secretary, I went to the location and found that there was no need for the programme," Zamani said in his police report which was sighted by *Malaysiakini* today.

He cited three reasons for lodging the police report. First, he questioned whether the organiser of the programme had obtained permission from the police.

Secondly, he claimed that the location of the event was unsuitable as it was near the main road of Kampung Tampoi as well as a traffic light.

"It is a busy area and it should not disturb others using the road," he told *Malaysiakini* after confirming that he had lodged the police report.

Thirdly, he said that it was not yet election season yet so there was no need to be campaigning.

Owner excited

In response, Malacca Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) deputy chief Rafiq Naizamohideen (*above*) said they had already informed the police about Sunday's event.

"We want to express our confusion as to why a police report was lodged yesterday (against our event)," he said in a press conference at the Bersatu Tangga Batu and Paya Rumput operations room today.

The press conference was broadcast live on Facebook.

Rafiq pointed out that under the Peaceful Assembly Act the organisers of such an event only need to inform the police and there was no need to get their permission.

“The owner of the house (where the event will be held) has already given us permission. The owner themselves are excited to welcome Mahathir,” he said.

He also said lodging a police report against the event will only bring more publicity for it.

The *teh tarik* session is a precursor to a Pakatan Harapan roadshow to be held on that same night at Alor Gajah which will be attended by Mahathir, PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Amanah president Mohamad Sabu, Bersatu president Muhyiddin Yassin and DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng.

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