

# Pepper spray suspect out on bail



**the suspect claims the statement made against him is baseless**

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**KOTA BARU:** The "Datuk" said to be behind the pepper spray incident involving former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was released on police bail by the magistrate's court here yesterday.

A veteran politician, the 53-year-old was released after the expiry of his remand.

Kota Baru magistrate Nazri Ismail made the order in chambers about 1pm. Kelantan Police Chief Datuk Zulkifli Abdullah confirmed the release.

The Datuk had earlier gone from the Raja Perempuan II Hospital where he had been treated since Sunday to the Kota Baru district police station to lodge a report against Dr Mahathir's supporter Datuk Ibrahim Ali.

In his report, the suspect claimed that Ibrahim's allegations that he was behind the attack on Dr Mahathir were baseless and designed to discredit him.

"He (Ibrahim) knew the identity of the person responsible for the ruckus at the airport.

"But he made a report accusing me as he wants to defame and demonise me in the public eye," the report

stated.

The 11am incident last Friday saw Dr Mahathir being hit by pepper spray during an argument between two groups of people upon arriving at the Sultan Ismail Petra airport here.

Dr Mahathir, who was in the State for a speaking engagement, was whisked away for medical treatment.

He later regained his composure and continued with the talk.

The suspect was picked up by police at his home about 10pm the same day and remanded for three days.

Speaking to reporters later, he said he was confident of proving his innocence even if the case went to court.