

Newspaper	Malaysian Reserve
Date	10 September 2015

Dr M: I'm ready to cooperate with police investigation

by AYU MUSA KAMAL

TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he will cooperate with police investigation related to his speech made at the Bersih 4 rally and that he is ready if they want to arrest him.

Speaking on his return from an overseas trip, Dr Mahathir was responding to a statement by the Inspector General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Abu Bakar that Dr Mahathir would be investigated for criminal defamation.

"It is their prerogative to arrest me, go ahead," he said on his arrival at Subang airport yesterday.

Khalid had said that following a report, police will investigate Dr Mahathir for allegedly saying that several Umno leaders had taken bribes and were corrupt.

Khalid said Dr Mahathir would not be subjected to the

usual police investigation routine and might even be given slightly better treatment as he was a "statesman".

The police had taken statements from officials of Bersih 2.0 or the Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections last week, which organised the rally but none of them were detained.

Dr Mahathir told reporters at the rally on Aug 29 and Aug 30 that he was showing support for Malaysians who could not accept the leadership of the prime minister any longer.

Dr Mahathir had said that many people asked him whether he supported Bersih and whether he had become a supporter of the Chinese, in which he said it is nothing of that sort.

Dr Mahathir's apparent endorsement of the rally which is calling for clean elections, was cheered by yellow-shirted

protejtors but rubbed Umno Cabinet ministers the wrong way.

Umno VP Datuk, Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said Dr Mahathir had "crossed the line" with his presence on Saturday at the Bersih 4 rally in Kuala Lumpur.

He said the former*Umno president's attendance at the gathering which the police had declared as illegal was contrary to a statement he had made in 1998 that street demonstrations should not be supported.

Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak Said Dr Mahathir's presence at the Bersih 4 rally is disappointing and suggests that the former premier has changed his stance and now agrees with street protests.

"For me, Tun Dr Mahathir's presence at the rally shows that

he agrees with Bersih and what they do. That encourages people to participate in street demonstrations.

"It means that he has changed his stance," Salleh said.

Yesterday, PKR leader Rafizi Ramli had also been asked to give statement for his participation in the Bersih 4 rally and for uttering the ^words "Tangkap Najib, Tangkap Rosmah" and wearing a Bersih 4 shirt.

"I find it amusing that the questions which were asked with regards to this investigation under Section 505(b) was due to me saying "Tangkap Najib, Tangkap Rosmah".

"I was also asked whether I had led the shouts and how many times I yelled the phrase," Rafizi said adding that he was not asked on anything else that was in his speech apart from the phrase.