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marulzaman said MPPUM was following Permadah's lead.

Following Permadah's lead as main organiser, we regret to inform that MPPUM, too, withdraws as organiser of the programme with Dr Mahathir," he said.

This comes after scheduled events featuring top debater and leader of youth group Challenger Syed Saddiq Abdul Rahman at public universities were **cancelled**.

Syed Saddiq claimed the organisers were pressured by Higher Education Ministry, but minister Idris Jusoh said the universities had exercised their autonomy.

Syed Saddiq and Mahathir are among 45 signatories of the Citizens' Declaration, which among others calls for Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's resignation.