

AFTER BEING QUESTIONED OVER FB POSTS

Dr M: Malaysia may become police state

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia was reaching a point where it could become a police state.

He said this hours after being called in for questioning by the police over a Facebook post.

“We have reached a point where Malaysia can be known as a police state, or a police government, because the government can make any decision it likes.

“The attorney-general can decide on anything, whether it follows the rules or not,” he said at the Al-Bukhary Foundation here.

Dr Mahathir was interviewed by police yesterday morning as part of investigations into the Facebook posts he made on July 27.

In the posts titled “Malaysia is a Malay Country” and “Multiracialism”, he claimed that Malaysia was a Malay country and should not be recognised as a

multiracial country.

Yesterday, he said he was told that police officers had been following opposition candidates on their campaign trails during the recently-concluded state polls.

“This amounts to a threat. It’s an attempt to stop them from speaking up because whatever they say would be interpreted as violating the prohibition on touching on race, religion and rulers, or the 3R.”

He also accused the government and the police of being selective in their enforcement. He said this was evident when he was being questioned over his comments about non-Malay communities in the country.

He claimed that the questioning was a form of intimidation to prevent him and other people from talking about issues related to the Malay community.

“I’m surprised police questioned me over my statement. I believe there is a double standard.

“When former Bank Negara Malaysia governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz made a report to the attorney-general against three



Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was interviewed by police yesterday as part of investigations into his July 27 Facebook posts. PIC BY HAZREEN MOHAMAD

Malaysia Development Bhd officials who were going to be charged, no action was taken by authorities.

“But when I made a comment, they said it was against the law. I had talked based on facts. It was not against the law and the constitution because the matter I raised are related to the country being ‘Tanah Melayu’. It is stated in the constitution.”

He also chided the federal government for prohibiting the people from talking about the 3Rs.

“There was a statement (made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri An-

war Ibrahim) that such matters (3Rs) could not be discussed.

“Such a (prohibition to talk on such topics) should be decided and be prevented through an amendment of the law in Parliament.

“The prime minister is deciding what can or cannot be spoken is as if he is a king or dictator.

“It has been more than 60 years since the country gained its independence, (so) we should be more liberal, but the government we have now is putting pressure on people and being discriminatory.”