

Mat Sabu to sue Utusan this Monday
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 10 — PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu will file a suit on Monday against Utusan Malaysia over its report of his ceramah last month that touched on the Bukit Kepong tragedy.

His 24-hour ultimatum for an apology from the Umno-owned Malay daily expired yesterday.

"The time has come for me to sue Utusan Malaysia until it is bankrupt for its allegations to smear me and cripple PAS's influence to keep Barisan Nasional (BN) in power," Mohamad (picture) told a ceramah in Bukit Mertajam last night.

PAS organ Harakahdaily quoted the party deputy president as saying the 24-hour deadline for Utusan Malaysia to retract its report "Mat Sabu hina pejuang" (Mat Sabu insults warriors) had ended and he would proceed with the legal suit.

He said his lawyers have the legal papers over that particular news report and subsequent reports over the past 15 days.

"I have been hurt until today when in fact the ceramah was a long time ago and their facts are made up and do not exist.

"I have not been given a chance to explain the actual situation on television, where I seem to speak without any voice, like a duck," added the PAS leader, popularly known as Mat Sabu.

The Umno-owned newspaper quoted Mohamad on August 27 as saying that the communists who attacked the Bukit Kepong police station during the communist insurgency were heroes.

Utusan reported that Mohamad made the remarks at a political ceramah in Tasek Gelugor, Penang, on August 21.

During the Emergency (1948-1960), communist insurgents attacked the police station on February 23, 1950 while the country was still under British rule.

The Malay daily also stated that the PAS leader said the country's first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj and Umno's first president Datuk Onn Jaafar were not freedom fighters.

Umno-linked newspapers have picked on Mohamad since he was elected PAS deputy president earlier this year, as he has been against unity talks with the ruling party.

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