

Mat Sabu sues Utusan over communist remarks, says Muhyiddin, Musa Hassan next

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By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 14- Mohamad Sabu has confirmed filing a lawsuit today against Umno daily Utusan Malaysia for alleging that the PAS deputy president had supported communists who had attacked the Bukit Kepong police station.

Utusan Malaysia had carried a front page report on August 27 alleging that Mohamad had said that the communists who attacked the Bukit Kepong police station during the communist insurgency were heroes.

The Umno-owned daily reported that Mohamad made the remarks at a political ceramah in Tasek Gelugor, Penang, on August 21.

Mohamad, who was present with his lawyer Mohd Hanipa Maidin here today, reiterated that Utusan's coverage of his speech back then was false, and that immediate legal action was required as the "lies" could affect him and his family.

Hanipa told reporters that that a writ of summons was filed today against Utusan as well as its chief editor Datuk Aziz Ishak. Mohamad's contention is that Utusan had repeatedly published defamatory articles against him since August 27.

"This suit is in response to a notice of demand that we sent before. Even though Utusan responded they never apologised or retracted their allegations against Mat Sabu.

"The suit is more towards accusations that have linked Mat Sabu to communists...this is baseless," said the PAS lawyer.

"This defamatory accusations can affect the safety of me and my family...the suit is based on things I have never said during my August 21 speech in Tasik Gelugor, Penang," said Mohamad.

Hanipa said that they would let the High Court decide on the amount of the suit.

"I have also been ordered by my client (Mohamad) to file a suit against (Tan Sri Muhyiddin (Yassin) and former Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan for saying that Mat Sabu is a traitor," said Hanipa.

Mohamad added that Muhyiddin has yet to respond to his request for a public debate on the matter, and that the accusations made by the Umno deputy president was "serious."

"These are serious accusations, he (Muhyiddin asked me to repent (bertaubat) that's why we are offering a solution," explained Mohamad.

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

Utusan 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.

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