

Karpal tells Mat Sabu to retract Bukit Kepong claim
The Malaysian Insider
September 01, 2011
By Shannon Teoh

GEORGE TOWN, Sept 1 — DAP chief Karpal Singh has called on his Pakatan Rakyat (PR) colleague Mohamad Sabu to withdraw statements the PAS deputy president made concerning the Bukit Kepong tragedy.

With Mohamad drawing flak for the federal opposition after allegedly defending communists, Karpal said today that the Bukit Kepong incident should not be disputed as historical documents have shown that police officers and their families have sacrificed to fend off communist guerrillas.

“Touching on a sensitive topic from 61 years ago is unfair and I feel he must seriously consider retracting his statement given the negative reception he has drawn,” the Bukit Gelugor MP was quoted as saying by Bernama Online.

Mohamad, popularly known as Mat Sabu, allegedly said in a ceramah on August 21 in Tasek Gelugor that the attacks on the Bukit Kepong police station which killed 25 were by freedom fighters.

Although Karpal (picture) said he was not “anti-PAS nor anti-Sabu, I disagree with his views on this matter” and that it would negatively impact the coalition.

“I see no positive development for PR, it is negative,” he added.

Other PR lawmakers also told The Malaysian Insider today that Mohamad’s comments had allowed Umno to go on the offensive after spending months trying to contain the fallout from rising inflation and the July 9 Bersih rally for electoral reforms.

On Saturday, Umno-owned Utusan Malaysia quoted Mohamad as saying that the communists who attacked the Bukit Kepong police station during the pre-Independence communist insurgency were heroes.

The newspaper accused him of disparaging the country’s armed forces and expressing support for communists but Mohamad, popularly known as Mat Sabu, has since denied the report and accused the Malay-language daily of fabricating the quote.

“Utusan lied...they made up stories about my speech,” Mohamad told The Malaysian Insider.

“When I checked back and looked at the recording, the word ‘communist’ wasn’t found in my speech,” he said, adding that he will sue the newspaper.

The Malay daily launched a full-scale assault against Mohamad on Sunday over his alleged remarks, carrying eight pages worth of comments and criticisms against him, ranging from top Umno leaders like Umno deputy president and Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to ex-soldiers who had fought communists during the Bukit Kepong police station attack.

The newspaper also accused Mohamad of wanting to re-write history to turn Malaysia into a republic.

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright © 2011 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/karpal-tells-mat-sabu-to-retract-bukit-kepong-claim/>