

Mat Sabu says will sue Utusan over communist slur
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By Boo Su-Lyn

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 29 — PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu said today he would sue Utusan Malaysia for falsely reporting him as supporting communists.

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

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

"When I checked back and looked at the recording, the word "communist" wasn't found in my speech," he added.

Utusan reported that Mohamad, more widely known as Mat Sabu, 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.

On its front-page today, Utusan reported Mohamad (picture) as saying that he could not remember his speech and quoted former Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Musa Hassan calling him a "terrorist and traitor".

The Malay daily also reported Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein and MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek censuring the popular grassroots leader.

Utusan yesterday launched a full-scale assault on Mohamad 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, deputy IGP Datuk Khalid Abu Bakar, 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.

Several police reports have been lodged against the PAS No. 2.

The News Straits Times reported on its front-page today that the police would question Mohamad over his alleged remarks.

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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