

**Decide if Mat Sabu is an Islamist or communist, Guan Eng tells critics**  
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**By Shannon Teoh**

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 30 — Lim Guan Eng has challenged critics of Pakatan Rakyat (PR) colleague Mohamad Sabu to make up their minds over whether the PAS deputy president is an Islamic extremist or a communist.

The DAP secretary-general said that he had been detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) in 1987 during the Operation Lalang clampdown along with Mohamad, who was then accused of being an Islamic fundamentalist.

"Now, they are saying he is supporting communism. Is there any credibility to these accusations?" he told reporters at the prime minister's Hari Raya open house today.

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.

Lim, who is also Penang chief minister, likened the attacks on Mohamad to those made against him for being anti-Malay and also anti-Chinese at the same time.

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