

**Hisham chides Mat Sabu for 'shallow, political thinking'**  
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**By Debra Chong**

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 30 -- Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein dismissed today political foe Mohamad Sabu's alleged remark championing communists as freedom fighters, saying such a statement showed off the PAS leader's "shallow political thinking".

Mohamad Sabu: "Utusan made up stories."

On Saturday, Malay-language daily Utusan Malaysia quoted Mohamad as saying that the communists who attacked the Bukit Kepong police station during the communist insurgency were heroes.

Hishammuddin, whose grandfather Tun Onn Jaafar helped found Umno and is widely regarded as a national hero, sneered at the PAS deputy president's poor grasp of history and described the latter as being "buta sejarah" ("history-blind").

He added that the popular grassroots preacher's allegedly disparaging remark was uttered purposely to provoke a reaction from the families of those involved.

"It's provocation... to have us react; it's clearly not working," Hishammuddin told reporters today at the Prime Minister's open house party celebrating the first day of Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

He added that he was heartened by the feedback from Malaysians of all races and religions criticising Mohamad on social network Twitter.

The Umno vice-president said he was confident the educated younger generation were not blind to history and would not buy Mohamad's story.

English-language daily The Star reported today DAP chairman Karpal Singh chiding his Pakatan Rakyat (PR) ally.

Karpal was also reported as saying he regarded the 25 policemen who defended the Bukit Kepong police station in 1950, Umno founder Datuk Onn Jaafar and Tunku Abdul Rahman as true nationalists.

The Bukit Gelugor MP said this should not be disputed and must be accepted as it was historically documented that the communist terrorist attack on the police station was repelled by the policemen and their family members.

"They must be given due credit by all quarters for their courage and sacrifice.

"It is wrong to say that they (the policemen) were British officers as allegedly described by Mohamad," The Star reported Karpal as saying.

Hishammuddin also said Mohamad, popularly known as Mat Sabu, will likely reverse his stand in next few days.

Mohamad has since denied the report and accused Umno-owned Utusan of fabricating the quote.

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

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

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.

Mohamad said later that he intends to sue Utusan over the initial report.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Khalid Abu Bakar has said 49 police reports have been filed against Mohamad.

According to Khalid, the PAS leader is being investigated under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code, which regards the making, publishing or circulating of any statement, rumour or report with the intention to cause fear or alarm to the public.

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