

## **Karpal asks Mat Sabu to retract statement**

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**By Aaron Ngui**

GEORGE TOWN (Sept 1, 2011): DAP chairman Karpal Singh (pix) wants his fellow Pakatan Rakyat leader Mohamad Sabu to retract a recent statement he allegedly made regarding the Bukit Kepong incident in the 1950s.

Karpal said the statement was ill-advised and the fact that the policemen and home guard were employed by the British did not justify the attack.

"Touching upon such a sensitive issue more than 61 years ago after the event is certainly unjustifiable," he said at a press conference today in an attempt to contain the political fallout caused by the PAS deputy president.

Karpal said the politician should immediately do the needful to assuage the feelings of the families of those who perished in the attack.

Mohamad Sabu, better known as Mat Sabu is alleged to have remarked during a ceramah in Tasek Gelugor, here, on Aug 21 that the communist guerillas who attacked and killed 25 police personnel and their families in the Bukit Kepong tragedy were the real heroes as they were actually fighting the British.

The statement has ignited a media firestorm and several police reports have been lodged against him.

Mat Sabu later clarified the remark, stating that those who attacked Bukit Kepong were heroes because they were freedom fighters, and not because they attacked Malay policemen.

He has also declared that he would sue Malay daily Utusan Malaysia for reporting that he supported communists.

Karpal said the statements attributed to Mohamad could damage the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) coalition but stopped short of calling the politician a liability to PR.

"I am not anti-PAS and I am not anti-Sabu, but I do not agree with his statement here on this issue," he said.

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