

Spotlight on Pak Lah but Khairy goes after DAP for "dirty politics"
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In the week since news broke about a book on his father-in-law's time in power, Khairy Jamaluddin has come under severe attack by Umno bloggers aligned to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

It is fair to say that Khairy will be under the spotlight again when Dr Mahathir responds to criticisms against him by successor Tun Abdullah Badawi in the book titled Awakening: The Abdullah Years in Malaysia.

But for today at least, the Umno Youth chief attempted to change the news cycle by going after Sarawak DAP chief Chong Chieng Jen for accusing the Barisan Nasional (BN) of staging a series of shootings and other serious crimes to justify reintroducing preventative laws.

"The accusations are serious and extreme harassment aimed at influencing the public to hate the BN which is a legitimately elected government," Khairy said in a statement released in Kuala Lumpur today.

His Umno Youth Wing lodged a police report against Chong at the Indera Mahkota station in Pahang today.

The Youth and Sports Minister said Chong's statement showed his shallow and childish mindset, championing hate politics practised by the opposition, especially DAP.

He also said the movement labelled Chong's statement as part of "dirty politics".

"The report was made as we are responsible, peace loving and practise mature politics. We hope there would a strict enforcement of law imposed on him."

In an immediate response, Chong clarified that he only said that the government was attempting to use the current rise in crime rate to reintroduce preventive laws.

"I didn't say BN was manufacturing crime to reintroduce preventive laws."

Chong said Umno Youth was trying to divert the attention of the public on the current issue of alarming shootings and serious crimes by lodging a report against him.

"This is typical of Umno tactic," he said.

The Borneo Post news portal yesterday quoted the Bandar Kuching MP as saying that the spike in criminal activities was a BN drama to reintroduce laws similar to the repealed Emergency Ordinance.

"Of late there are certain sectors in BN including Zahid (Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi) who have been using the increase in crime rate and gun shooting as grounds to reintroduce preventive laws like the EO," Chong had reportedly said.

"In so doing the people are made the victims of the political agenda of BN."

Chong had also suggested the DAP suspected that crime rate was deliberately allowed to skyrocket and the police were taking a couldn't-care-less attitude to justify Zahid's push to reintroduce laws like EO which would then give the home minister unlimited power to silence dissidents and suppress the opposition. - August 14, 2013.

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