

**Dr M: Ibrahim Ali had no intention of provoking anyone**  
**TheRakyatPost**  
**Oct 29, 2014**

**KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 29, 2014:** Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said Datuk Ibrahim Ali's call for the burning of Malay language Bibles was not an act of sedition as his intention was not to provoke. In a press conference held at the Sime Darby Convention Centre today, Dr Mahathir justified the Perkasa chief's actions which he said was simply an opinion that could be acceptable to Muslims. "It is not sedition. It's not in his intention to provoke people or to create clashes between Muslims and the non-Muslims." He explained that the Muslims themselves had practised the burning of old copies of the Quran, which is permitted so long as it is done without bad intentions. "Only when you show disrespect towards the Quran then it is forbidden. For Muslims, if they have some documents that they are adverse to, they shouldn't throw them around, throw them on the ground or step on them. "Therefore, they should show the same respect for the Bible, and by burning it the way they burn the Quran, that is permitted." Ibrahim was reported to have made the statement with regard to the Bibles which contained the word "Allah" as he believed it could confuse young Muslim students. It was also aimed at those who were distributing the Bibles to Penang school students, including the Muslims. De facto Law Minister Nancy Shukri had also come under fire when she said Ibrahim had not been charged as he was defending Islam. The Attorney-General's Chambers released a statement yesterday saying that investigations conducted on Ibrahim's statement proved that it was not done with ill intentions and, therefore, did not fall under the provisions of the Sedition Act 1948. Dr Mahathir also touched on the importance of participation of women in public life. He spoke of his daughter, Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, and her controversial opinions. "Marina is a very independent person. I don't always agree with her but I have no choice as she is my daughter. "If she wants to take a stand, it is her right to do so. "But I would like to say that there are many things she does which I do not agree with." Marina, a social activist, has been criticised by some for allegedly supporting the rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders (LGBT), and her participation in Bersih rallies.

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Source: <http://www.therakyatpost.com/news/2014/10/29/dr-m-ibrahim-ali-intention-provoke-anyone/>