

The Edge, my friends are now targets, says Dr Mahathir
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Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described Putrajaya's suspension of The Edge Weekly and The Edge Financial Daily over its coverage of scandal-ridden state fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) as a form of censorship.

"Of course we have to censor," Dr Mahathir said cryptically in a video uploaded on The Star Online.

"The Edge and also all my friends are now the targets, and I don't know why," he said.

Dr Mahathir was speaking after attending a birthday party in his honour at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur last night.

It was not clear who Dr Mahathir, who turned 90 recently, was referring to, but his friends who have been vocal in criticising the mismanagement in 1MDB include former Umno minister Tan Sri Zainuddin Maidin and former New Straits Times editor-in-chief Datuk A. Kadir Jasin.

Kadir, who was also present at the birthday party last hosted by tycoon Tan Sri Vincent Tan, reportedly questioned if the Home Ministry had good reason to issue the three-month suspension on the two business publications, The Star reported.

"We have to see if this action has basis or was spontaneous.

"The Edge said it will challenge the matter in court. This is the only way out," he reportedly said.

The Edge had said it would file for a judicial review on the suspension orders of its papers on Monday.

The Home Ministry suspended the publishing permits of The Edge Weekly and The Edge Financial Daily for three months beginning July 27.

Earlier this month, The Edge received a show cause letter in which the ministry gave them seven days to explain why action should not be taken under the Printing Presses and Publication Act 1984.

The Edge was accused of publishing articles on 1MDB, the controversial state fund, which were said to have created confusion and doubt about the Malaysian government and financial institutions.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has also been implicated in the scandal, with money from 1MDB-linked entities allegedly flowing into his personal accounts.

He has not addressed this claim directly but only denied taking funds for "personal gain".

Dr Mahathir, the country's longest-serving prime minister, who has been at the forefront in criticising the debt-ridden 1MDB and wastage under the Najib administration, has openly called for the prime minister's resignation. – July 25, 2015.

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