

TN50 forum was under control, says Rosyam on slap incident

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Actor Rosyam Nor says it would have been difficult for other showbiz personalities to control the event like he did, saying he was mature in handling the situation.

PETALING JAYA: Rosyam Nor dismisses any suggestion that the slapping incident, which took place in front of Prime Minister Najib Razak on Wednesday night, was his fault.

Claiming he was experienced in emceeing and moderating events in the past, the actor-director said he had everything under control, The Star reported.

On May 17, actor-comedian Sulaiman Yassin, better known as Mat Over, approached TV and film director David Teo and slapped him on stage, in front of Najib, Rosyam and a few hundred people attending the National Transformation (TN50) dialogue session.

"I'm not new to being a moderator. I was mature enough in handling the situation. If it was someone else, it might have been quite difficult for them to handle," Rosyam was quoted as saying.

He has since been criticised by some entertainers and many people who viewed the video clip of the scuffle which had gone viral, for failing to stop the incident held at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya.

"I'm very experienced in handling programmes for government agencies. For the TN50 event, I had asked the PM to go for a relaxed session and begin with a selfie," he said, adding that Najib was pleased with his handling of the situation.

A day after the incident, local celebrity and star of film, TV and stage, Afdlin Shauki blamed moderator Rosyam for mishandling the scuffle between the two veteran entertainment industry players.

Taking to Instagram to voice his criticism, he said not only did Rosyam not handle the situation well, the whole country heard him say to Najib that popular film producer David Teo is "memang kurang ajar" (definitely rude), which he said was uncalled for.

"Instead of making the situation worse, Rosyam should have just apologised for the childish behaviour of his fellow artistes," Afdlin had said, adding that the body representing local entertainers, Persatuan Seniman Malaysia (Seniman), should take action on the matter.

Meanwhile, Seniman president Zed Zaidi said the issue has brought upon a negative image of the performing arts world, asking those who had not been there to refrain from making this worse.

“It would only complicate matters. What they watched on the viral video is not the whole picture,” he told the daily.

Seniman represents some 6,000 members of the entertainment industry.

The slapping incident occurred when Teo, had voiced out his concern that Rosyam, as moderator of the TN50 dialogue session, was only picking on people in the front row around the stage, to ask questions, instead of letting the industry players seated in the rows behind a chance to speak up too.

Police are said to be investigating the incident after a policeman on security detail had filed a police report.

However, Teo said he will not be pursuing any form of legal action against Sulaiman over the incident.

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