

**Mahathir resorting to 'fear tactics', says Gerakan  
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**Gerakan chief says PPBM chairman is making unfounded and maliciously motivated claims to smear the ruling BN government.**

KUALA LUMPUR: Gerakan today slammed former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad for allegedly creating unnecessary fear among the public by saying that the ruling government would detain leaders and prohibit public demonstrations to contain the influence of the opposition.

Its president, Mah Siew Keong, said the PPBM chairman was wrong, adding that it was part of Mahathir's plot as he was now on the list to return as prime minister if Pakatan Harapan wins the next general election.

"Mahathir is making unfounded and maliciously motivated claims to smear the ruling government. It is unfortunate that the former prime minister is resorting to fear tactics to draw away political support from the government," he said.

Yesterday, Mahathir criticised the leadership of the ruling government under Prime Minister Najib Razak, saying it had terrorised the opposition by taking legal action against opposition leaders.

"The nation will remember the 5th Bersih demonstration. He (Najib) declared that he would not ban it. But we all know the strenuous efforts he made to prevent the demonstration from taking place, or at least to reduce the scale," he had said on his blog.

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