

Dr Mahathir, Rafidah to Speak at MEF KL Dialogue Tomorrow



KUALA LUMPUR, 29 NOVEMBER, 2010: Picture this: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz will be featured at a dialogue here tomorrow, and this will perhaps, be the first time they are speaking at a public forum together, following the widely-publicized "Merdeka embrace" of the two iconic personalities on Merdeka Day in 2005.

Dr Mahathir and Rafidah will take centre stage at the 3rd MEF Kuala Lumpur Dialogue organized by the Malaysia-Europe Forum (MEF) at the Crowne Plaza Mutiara hotel here, whose theme is "Looking back, in order to move forward".

Prior to that tearful hugging incident in Putrajaya, six years ago, Rafidah, who was then international trade and industry minister, had come under fire over issues brought up by Dr Mahathir, pertaining to Approved Permits (APs) for car imports given out by her ministry.

Both Rafidah and Dr Mahathir had traded barbs over the APs controversy and many had even persuaded Rafidah to apologize to Dr Mahathir for making what they felt were hurtful remarks to the former prime minister.

Given that Rafidah is the advisor and patron of MEF, an independent, non-profit organization established to promote the exchange of views and enhancement of links between Malaysia and Europe, and that Dr Mahathir had agreed to speak at her forum, it would appear that the two feisty personalities had reconciled.

The forum's secretariat, when contacted, confirmed the attendance of Dr Mahathir and Rafidah.

Rafidah will moderate the session where her former boss, Dr Mahathir, delivers a keynote address on "The Malaysian Political Landscape - Experiences, Perspectives & Thoughts."

- Bernama

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