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## Umno division chief says only drank coffee at nightclub

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**KUALA LUMPUR** — Umno's strongman in Bandar Tun Razak, Datuk Rizalman Mokhtar, has come out with guns blazing over his arrest for alleged drug abuse at an exclusive karaoke lounge recently, believing he fell victim to entrapment.

"I am not sure who did it, but I believe it was done to jeopardise my candidacy in Bandar Tun Razak and tarnish my name," he told a press conference yesterday.

The Bandar Tun Razak Umno division chief claimed he was entrapped by political foes, following his arrest for alleged drug abuse at an entertainment outlet off Jalan Imbi early on Monday.

Rizalman, who is also the Umno Federal Territories secretary, and 10 others, including two women, were picked up by police during the raid, and all were

reported to have tested positive for drug abuse.

Officers from the city police headquarters, assisted by Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission personnel, carried out the raid following claims concerning the validity of the establishment's operations.

"I deny any wrongdoing as claimed in reports, and all I can say is I have been entrapped, I do not take drugs," Rizalman told reporters at the Bandar Tun Razak Umno division office.

His wife and children, and Barisan Nasional grassroots supporters from Bandar Tun Razak were present to lend their support.

Rizalman said he went to the entertainment centre for "normal leisure activities" and assumed the outlet was licensed as it had been in business for almost a decade.

"We abstained from alcohol, only drank coffee and soft drinks, but our urine

test results returned positive. I did not hallucinate and I was normal during the arrest, so I am wondering why my (test results) showed positive," he said.

Rizalman vowed he would use all legal channels to clear his name.

He said he was ready to cooperate with the authorities investigating him and ready to resign his political posts if he was convicted.

"As an Umno party member, I am ready to accept any possibility as I understand the disappointment showed by the party's deputy president following the incident," he said.

"However, I will continue to serve in my capacity as Bandar Tun Razak division leader for as long as Barisan Nasional allows me to do so."

On Tuesday, acting Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the party leadership will decide Rizalman's fate, and described the incident as unfortunate.



Rizalman says he is a victim of entrapment by political foes.  
— Picture by Razak Ghazali