

Cops should put public safety above politics

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It raised my blood pressure just to watch what happened during the anti-Lynas protest in Penang on Sunday, when a bunch of hooligans, believed to be from Umno-Perkasa, created a ruckus during the assembly.

Whether it is true that these hooligans were from Umno or hired by them, Umno, through the years, has been known for its culture of being troublemakers when they lose in the general elections, and in my opinion, from what we have seen, enough is enough!

Malaysians have to rise against the intimidation of Umno hooligans, instead of allowing this country to be ruined by such people.

Flashing back to May 13, wasn't it Harun Idris, the then menteri besar of Selangor, who rallied Umno to cause the racial riots that saw the death of many civilians in this country?

Even as children, we learnt that it was a conspiracy between Harun Idris, Mahathir Mohamad and Razak Hussein, to destabilise Tunku Abdul Rahman's position as prime minister of Malaysia.

Fast forward, in 2008, it was a bunch of Umno men from Section 24, Shah Alam who paraded a cow head and demonstrated in front of the Selangor State Administration.

The police, then under the present Deputy IGP, merely watched as the incident unfolded. And Hishamuddin Hussein, the Minister of Home Affairs, was reported in the papers as defending them.

Till today, Hishamuddin has never issued the names of PAS people who were in their midst, despite the challenge issued by Khalid Samad of PAS.

Of late, a meeting organised by Anything But Umno (ABU) and Hindraf in Jalan Kebun was also disrupted by youths on their motorbikes. Locals have identified them as Umno youths.

Another meeting in Kapar organised by Solidariti Mahasiswa was also interrupted by rowdy youths on their motorbikes.

Opposition leader, Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Machap was also not without incident.

The latest we saw was when Anwar visited the constituency of Sembrong, whose MP is none other than Home Minister, Hishammuddin Hussein, and there was just as much aggression.

I like the way how Anwar's supporters remained calm, despite being provoked. But my question is: How did the police respond to such rowdiness? Were the police also unaware of Anwar's visit to Sembrong and Machap?

As members of public, we have seen enough of Umno's culture as a political party. Unlike PAS, which is more peace and Allah loving, Umno leaders have become too arrogant after staying in power for far too long.

Anyone, upon reaching 55 years, would have opted for retirement. What is left of Umno today is nothing but the arrogant, scandal-mongering Umno A team, led by the son of a Kerala man from India.

Therefore, when I read the article about the ruckus created in anti-Lynas rally in Penang, I cannot help it but to lash out on whoever is responsible for the injuries caused to two journalists from Penang.

Call it an illegal assembly or what have you, but Penang State police chief officer Ayub Yaacob's statement is uncalled for.

He appears to be talking nonsense, being a senior police officer, who labels the organisers of the solidarity gathering Himpunan Hijau 2.0 as being "arrogant" for not informing the police about the event.

Therefore, he said, the police did not send a team of men to monitor the assembly.

As the State chief, he should be made responsible for his failure to monitor the situation on the ground, and ensure safety of every Malaysian who wants to assemble for a good cause.

The entire assembly was a peace-loving crowd from what I can see, until a group of unwelcomed troublemakers turned up and created a ruckus.

Why did the police not act immediately to arrest these troublemakers? After all, they were involved directly in injuring the two journalists.

There is plenty of evidence around which the police could use to charge the culprits, so Ayub had no business saying what he had said!

Ayub should realise that he is accountable to the rakyat who pay his monthly salary. It is his duty to protect every Penangite from being physically beaten up like the two journalists.

If incidents like this can happen under his nose, and he continues to hold his nose high in the air with the same arrogance as his political masters, it is time that the rakyat push for change at the top.

Pushing my point further, try talking to any of his men, I am sure that they will tell you that Ayub's remarks are uncalled for. He is a disgrace to the entire police force.

He is, in other words, saying that his Special Branch officers are all sleeping on their job.

What the heck! These people have served him through the years, being paid a meagre salary, and now are on the receiving end of his arrogance!

As a good Muslim, I believe Ayub should be remorseful by now for telling a lie knowing that it is a big dosa to lie, especially to the people whom he is supposed to protect.

He claimed that he was unaware of the plan to hold a rally at the Penang Esplanade on Sunday, whereas even the hooligans knew that the chief minister of Penang was turning up for the event.

If Ayub cannot even take a criticism like this from an ordinary member of the public, he no longer deserves a senior public post like the one which he is holding now, and of course, much less the respect of the people of Malaysia.