

'Old hen' tag hurled at Penang MCA Wanita chief

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BN leaders who were part of an all-women panel in a forum organised by local daily Kwong Wah Jit Poh and Penang Chinese Town Hall were last night heckled by Pakatan Rakyat supporters.

State Wanita MCA chief Tan Cheng Liang said she regretted that the Pakatan supporters acted "rowdy and bullyish" at the forum, and hurled abusive language her and other BN leaders.

NONETan (left) said Pakatan supporters could not face the truth when she delivered her speech touching on several "sexist remarks attacking women" by their leaders, which included DAP's Hew Kuan Yau and PAS spiritual advisor Nik Aziz Nik Mat.

Some 300 seats were allocated to both BN and Pakatan supporters, and the former showed their "professionalism and were gentlemen" in their behaviour at the event, she added.

"The Pakatan supporters only came to disrupt the forum, not to listen to rational debate. They used all sorts of abusive and violent words to attack me," she lamented.

"Some threatened to beat me up and I had to be escorted out of the forum by the organisers and a group of Rela (voluntary security corps)," she added.

"This is gangsterism politics and must be condemned. I was invited by organisers to speak on women's issues, why can't they listen professionally?" she asked.

Pakatan supporters 'authoritarian attitude'

Tan said Pakatan members seem unable to accept criticism and advised the people to think carefully before allowing them to rule the country as they have shown their "authoritarian attitude".

She vowed to continue speaking the truth as she is in no way intimidated by the violent behaviour.

NONEOther speakers at the forum included Gerakan's women chief Ng Siew Lai, DAP Bukit Mertajam MP Chong Eng and PKR central committee member Tan Yee Kow.

Around 1,000 attended the forum, and was shown a video clip of Nik Aziz asking women to cover themselves or become potential rape victims.

When Tan highlighted Pakatan leaders' sexist remarks leaders, their supporters boo-ed and some called out "lao geh boh" (old hen), standing up with their thumbs down.

The moderator tried to calm the situation, but her opponents continued disrupting the session.

During the question-and-answer session, a participant asked Pakatan leaders present to calm down their supporters.

NONETO which Chong Eng's reply was she was just a speaker and could not intervene without the moderator's request.

"This is what happened in Parliament. When someone complains, the speaker will say both sides are the same."

A young officer from the Prime Minister's Department said it was ironic that the leaders spoke about women's rights but the (MCA Wanita) chief was attacked by "old hen" remarks.

"When she was attacked by those remarks, no one stood up to defend her. Under this tense situation, not only women dare not speak up, men also dare not voice out their views."

Following this, Chong teased the officer, saying he should not become "a male version of Jessie Ooi".

A Pakatan supporter then walked near the officer and blew a whistle, trying to disturb him.

Tan, who was former Nibong Tebal assemblyperson, claimed that a man had threatened to beat the young officer.

Meanwhile, state Gerakan chief Dr Teng Hock Nan (right) was also present at the chaotic event but left before the session ended.

As he was leaving the hall, many Pakatan supporters "accompanied" him, but nothing happened.

It is learnt that the supporters were unhappy with Teng for his "boh tak cek" (Penangites not educated) comment.

Before the forum ended, Seberang Perai DAP councillor Tan Xin Yin said the behaviour of the crowd had "resulted in many women becoming reluctant to speak out".

At the end of the forum, the hostile group was still unwilling to disperse, with some waiting at the exit, probably for Tan and the young government officer.

To avoid further problems, Chong Eng was seen escorting Tan to her car, however, upon seeing them, the remaining crowd, shouted "old hen" again.

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