

## Comedians poke fun at Bersih in parody sketches

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While the nation is still trying to come to terms with the incidents surrounding the April 28 rally, a group of comedians are proving that laughter could very well be the best medicine.

But whether the medicine is too bitter to the taste for some is yet to be seen, as the satirical sketches parodying the Bersih 3.0 rally and its organisers may cut too close to the bone.

For those feeling hot under the collar, the group *Bangkang dari Longkang* has this to say: "This dark comedy was created by a bunch of Malaysians to laugh at a bunch of Malaysians..."

"It touches on many topics from day-to-day situations to even politics. If you feel this video was intended for you, *jangan terasa beb* (don't be so touchy)!"

Debuting on its YouTube channel yesterday, the group's first videos took potshots against the NGO movement and demonstrations in general.

In the first video, actors including Afdlin Shauki, Harun Salim Bachik and Johan (*Raja Lawak*) play a group of protesters trying to organise a demonstration, but who can't decide on a cause.

In an unmistakable dig at those calling for the Higher Education Fund (PTPTN) loans to be abolished, one of them suggests demanding that loans for motorcycles be written off - and for it to be extended to his friend's car loan.

"There's still space on this placard, we'll add in your car plate number," Afdlin's 'rocker' character says.

### 'Pilihanraya Adil or pilihanraya Azman?'

Harun's character, an Indonesian permanent resident in Malaysia, wants the demonstration to be for "pilihanraya adil" (fair polls)... but Bersih's supporters should not rejoice too soon.

"Adil is my friend's name. We can change it to 'Pilihanraya Azman' too, if you want," he said.

Dee, on the other hand, plays a 'socialite lady' who gets wind of the "secret plans" and is all agog to design the costumes, which the group now decides must be sequined.

But suddenly the police throw a spanner in the works - they approve the demonstration.

"Who will fire water cannons at us!" lamented Johan, while Dee frets about the lack of media coverage now that it is all legitimate.

But perhaps on a rather preachy note, the video ends with one line - "Dah lulus tapi nak cara

haram" (It was already permitted but you wanted the illegal way).

Next up, we see the same group during their demonstration, albeit sans sequins, and they have decided that they are demonstrating against demonstrations.

'Reporter' Sharifah Shahirah interviews the demonstrators, whom she says are "disturbing public peace, causing traffic jams and disturbing traders".

### **Guessing game over GE date**

Harun tells the reporter he is a *Bakso* (meatballs) seller (the crowd then chants '*Bakso, bakso, bakso*') and is upset that the demonstrations have affected his business, but alas today he's not doing business either.

"I'm demonstrating now, aren't I, so I can't be doing business now," he says, with a touch of irony, before the video closes with another message - "Ada saja sebab nak demo..." (There's always a reason to demonstrate...).

Bersih supporters tired of being the butt of jokes can find respite in the third video which satirises Malaysia's guessing game over the election date.

On the panel of this talk show is a Feng Shui master, a celebrity chef and a political scientist, who speaks gibberish in an altogether convincing manner.

And while the panellists seriously discuss their election day predictions, the camera cuts to a man sitting in a room throwing darts at a calendar.

No prizes for guessing who the man is supposed to be... but just in case you're wondering, the dart lands on June 12.