

PKR veep gets SMS acid splash threat
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By Victor TM Tan

PKR vice-president N Surendran has been threatened with an acid attack through text messaging, which he believed was linked to his criticism of the MIC.

According to his police report, Surendran said the profanity-laced text message warned him to stop criticising MIC or risk having acid splashed on his face.

Speaking to reporters after lodging a police report in Kuala Lumpur, Surendran accused MIC for being behind the threat and claimed that they had a history of violence.

"The person who did this has done a serious crime and can be sentenced to nine years of imprisonment under Section 506 and 507 of the Penal Code," said Surendran, who is a practicing lawyer.

PKR legal bureau chief Latheefa Koya, who accompanied Surendran to the police station, said the police must act and that it should be easy to track the owner of cellular phone where the message originated.

On May 2, Surendran and several others were allegedly attacked by MIC members at gates of the Prime Minister's Department, while attempting to highlight the plight of B Reshina's statelessness to the premier.

Two PKR activists S Murali and S Gobikrishnan, who were injured during the incident, were recipients of the same text message threats received by Surendran this morning.

'Cops won't protect us'

He expressed regret that after three months, no one has been arrested and charged over the alleged assault.

"BN is deliberately withdrawing protection of opposition figures. If they are serious in upholding the law, they must take action and stop such violence," he said.

Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar, who was also accompanying Surendran, said there was clearly an increase in political violence as the general election draws near.

She said the prime minister have yet to condemn such incidents, which she said could be read as tacit endorsement of the attacks.

"If BN is against political thuggery, why have not we heard from the premier against this matter?" she said, adding that the police have been very slow to act on complaints by the opposition.

She cited an attack on a ceramah within her constituency on May 24, which resulted in at least two person needing medical attention, which have yet to receive attention from the police.

"This stands in deep contrast as they arrest anyone who is suspected or perceived to be

close to the opposition," she said.

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