

'Bombs meant to hinder rakyat's mood for change?'

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PKR candidate for Sungai Acheh Chegubard has questioned if the recent bomb attacks against BN election centres were a "new tactic" to actually scare the public away from the campaign for change.

Chegubard, whose real name is Badrul Hisham Shaharin, said that the attendance of an extraordinarily large number of people at most Pakatan Rakyat ceramah could be a factor as this encourages the dissemination of information.

"It cannot be denied that information has also become the main weapon for Pakatan's victory (in the general election). Without information, it will be easier for BN to monopolise the rakyat's thinking through the mainstream media.

"The tactic of sending gangsters to the ceramah site is no longer having any effect on reducing attendance. Are bomb explosions a new tactic?" he queried in a statement today.

The Solidariti Anak Muda Malaysia (SAMM) chief also lambasted those who sought to take advantage of the situation to paint Pakatan Rakyat in a bad light by trying to associate the opposition coalition with the attacks.

He reflected that the attacks were reminiscent of similar incidents which occurred during the Permatang Pauh by-election in 2008, when an explosive was supposedly found at a BN centre, and explosions in front of the Kuala Lumpur court complex last year (above) when people were celebrating Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim's acquittal of a sodomy charge.

"Hence, I do not reject the possibility that the explosion at Nibong Tebal was engineered to upset the rakyat's mood. Besides, this is 'their' skill," he added without alluding to whom he was referring to.

Matter viewed seriously

However, he stressed that he views the matter seriously and with just 10 days more before the nation goes to polls, urged the police to investigate the attacks expeditiously.

This call was supported by Political Studies for Change (KPRU), which issued a statement denouncing the attack in Penang.

The think tank said the attack was aimed at causing "provocation and building a climate of fear in this run up to the 13th general election".

It pointed out this was not the first such act of election-related violence to be perpetrated

and warned that the acts could become more violent the closer the country edges to the election, particularly during political speeches.

In the Nibong Tebal incident yesterday, Penang police found two "improvised explosive devices" at a BN ceramah there last night.

One of the devices exploded at 10.15pm, injuring a party worker while the second one was found and detonated by police.

Also yesterday, a petrol bomb was hurled at a BN operations centre in Parit 9, Sungai Leman in Selangor causing the building to catch fire.

The most recent reported attack took place today when a molotov cocktail was hurled into a BN operations centre near Buntong in Ipoh at 5am, partly damaging a flag.

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