

Protesters fail to stop Waytha's BN campaign

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By Kuek Ser Kuang Keng

A group of protesters attempted to confront Hindraf leader P Waythamoorthy last night in Gelang Patah when he was there to campaign for BN, but police managed to disperse them peacefully after a one-hour standoff.

NONEWaythamoorthy (right) was speaking to some 300 Indian residents during a ceramah held at Taman Nesa, Skudai to explain the Hindraf blueprint which BN chief Najib Abdul Razak had signed just two days before nomination day on April 20, and why Indian voters should support BN in this general election.

Some 10 Indians led by PKR member K Selvakumaran walked towards Waythamoorthy as he was about to start his speech.

However, police personnel monitoring the event quickly moved in to block and drag the group away from the tent where the ceramah was being held.

NONE"I just want to ask him a question: Who is he to represent Indians? Who gave him permission to lead Hindraf?" Selvakumaran and other protesters shouted at Waythamoorthy.

Meanwhile, Waythamoorthy's supporters clad in orange Hindraf T-shirt shouted back at the protesters, "Long live Hindraf! Long live Hindraf!"

Pushed back by some 30 policemen to some 100m away, the protesters continued to shout "Ubah (change)! Ubah! Ubah! Bodoh (stupid)! Bodoh! Bodoh!" while Waythamoorthy pressed on with his speech.

Showering Waythamoorthy with all sorts of abusive language, the protesters accused him of betraying the Indian community by supporting BN.

NONE"We came in nicely but the Hindraf people stopped us... Five Hindraf leaders were jailed and four of them are now in Pakatan Rakyat, this guy was not here when they were arrested, and now he came back during election time and received money from Najib," Selvakumaran told KiniTV.

"He can join BN but don't influence our people!" another man shouted.

Speaking to KiniTV after the ceramah, Waythamoorthy said the protest showed that Hindraf is now a formidable force.

“They fear Hindraf because we are telling the truth. When people know the truth, they will definitely support BN.”

He called the protesters “thugs engaged by Pakatan”.

“Yesterday in Kulim, Pakatan people engaged thugs. Today they also engaged thugs, they are not civilised people,” he said, referring to the protest against him in Kulim yesterday.

“They could always come and talk. They could always come to ask questions. We are open to questions.”

Unable to leave the venue

After the ceramah, Waythamoorthy was unable to leave the venue as his white Toyota Camry was blocked by the protesters, who insisted on talking to Waythamoorthy face-to-face.

NONEThen Johor Bahru Utara district police chief ACP Ruslan Hassan arrived with more men in blue and they formed two human walls to keep the two groups about 20m apart.

“Waythamoorthy traitor! Waythamoorthy traitor!” the protesters shouted.

Rather than dispersing the protesters, Ruslan attempted to broker a solution between the two camps.

Although the protesters promised that they would remain quiet to listen to Waythamoorthy if the latter agrees to meet them, he did not respond to their demand.

After several rounds of negotiations with Ruslan, the protesters agreed to leave the venue after declaring Waythamoorthy a person with “no balls”.

Soon afterwards, he left the scene with a police escort, the Federal Reserve Unit only arrived after that.

NONEDuring the ceramah, Waythamoorthy had urged the audience to support Johor BN chief Abdul Ghani Othman, who is pitted against against DAP

parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang in Gelang Patah .

“Reject Lim Kit Siang!” he said.

Ghani, who was slated to attend the ceramah, was not seen, but Liang Ah Chy (right in photo), the BN candidate for Skudai, the state seat under Gelang Patah parliamentary constituency, read out a brief speech from a piece of paper appealing for support.

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