

PKR MP urges DAP, PAS boycott Parliament opening

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By Susan Loone

Pakatan Rakyat should take bold steps in fighting the "stolen election" by boycotting the Dewan Rakyat's swearing-in ceremony, says Bayan Baru MP Sim Tze Tzin.

NONEThe boycott, he said, would be a "symbolic gesture" to show that Pakatan is serious in wanting to resolve alleged election fraud in the May 5 polls.

He was referring to the decision by PKR allies DAP and PAS, who are not in favour of boycotting either the swearing-in ceremony, or the new session which begins on June 24.

Sim (left) urged Pakatan leaders to seriously deliberate the matter before arriving at a decision by consensus.

However, he said the boycott should just apply to the swearing-in ceremony and not the sitting.

"Without such bold steps from us, there would be no proper reforms but there would only be more crackdowns on Pakatan leaders and supporters," he said, referring to the arrests and prosecution of politicians, and organisers of the nationwide 'Black 505' rallies to condemn electoral fraud.

PAS and DAP had responded to a statement by PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim last Friday, who said that he was considering boycotting the opening session of the 13th Parliament in view of widespread criticism over the election outcome.

Anwar will also not be submitting any parliamentary questions for ministerial replies.

'Like Mahatma Gandhi'

NONESim, who was Anwar's (right) former political secretary, said the boycott was just a "symbolic gesture", and examples of similar actions can be drawn from all over the world.

"We can draw examples from India like Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation, resistance and defiance to strongly call for serious reforms in the country.

"We can also draw examples from countries like Myanmar where opposition leader and MP Aung San Suu Kyi boycotted the new Parliament last year over a word in the constitution," he told Malaysiakini.

"In Malaysia, no such bold steps have been taken, and the federal government would not be carrying out the national reconciliation as Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has suggested."

Despite winning 52 percent of the popular vote, Pakatan plans to file 35 election petitions, on the basis of offences and irregularities.

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