

Pakatan reps ready to 'take the risk' over Black 505 rally

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By Susan Loone

Penang Pakatan Rakyat representatives said they would face the risk of losing their posts as MPs and assemblypersons for taking part in the Black 505 rally this Saturday to protest alleged electoral fraud in the May 5 general election.

Bayan Baru MP Sim Tze Tzin said the people and public opinion were with Pakatan in fighting for this cause and therefore, they must proceed regardless of the dangers of being incarcerated for it.

"NONE"Everyone knows BN won by cheating, there are so many incidences of the indelible ink which are not delible, there is gerrymandering, especially in rural areas, and the list goes on," Sim (right) said, in a press conference to urge Penangites to attend the rally.

"There is also an overwhelming number of petitions filed against 40 seats, an unprecedented number in history, it shows a serious flaw in the election process," he added.

Accompanying Sim are state executive councillor Dr Afif Bahardin, MP Kasthurirani Pattoo (Batu Kawan), assemblypersons accompanying Ong Chin Wen (Bukit Tengah), Lee Khai Loon (Machang Bubok), Law Choo Kiang (Bukit Tambun), Teh Lai Hing (Komtar), T Jayabalan (Batu Uban), Cheah Kah Peng (Kebun Bunga), Dr Afif Bahardin and state PAS election director Roshidi Hussin.

The group wants Penangites to attend the rally as they have been the "agents of change" for Penang since 2008, where the BN coalition - which ruled the state since 1971 - was ousted by Pakatan then.

Roshidi - a former candidate for Penaga - also urged all PAS members to go down to Padang Merbok where the rally would be held, although Pakatan has yet to get permission to use the venue from the Kuala Lumpur mayor. Both sides are reportedly meeting to sort the matter out at 5pm today.

Lee said a bus from Bukit Mertajam will be provided for those who are interested in attending the rally, while Law added that all YBs are expected to provide one bus each for their supporters.

Indians urged to be 'part of history'

Kasthurirani urged all Penangites - particularly the Indian community - to join the rally, asking them to be "part of history".

"We hope the authorities and the police will respect the people's wishes to participate in the democratic process in line with the Peaceful Assembly Act (PAA)," she said.

"Such wishes cut across all genders, age and status. We want to take to the streets not for a coup or to topple the government, but to express displeasure in the way the election had been carried out," she added.

NONE On what is the justification for attending or organising the rally when Pakatan reps have won, especially in Penang, Afif (left) noted that "no one is complaining about our victory".

"People are not complaining about Pakatan's victory in Penang or Selangor, there is no petition filed against us," he said.

"We know that people are with us, and that the Election Commission cannot provide a process according to the people's wishes for a fair and clean election.

"How impossible it is that although we won the popular vote, we cannot form the federal government," he lamented.

Law said just because Pakatan won some seats, they cannot ignore the reality on the ground, especially in constituencies where cheating had reportedly occurred.

"We cannot just turn a deaf ear to what is so critical - allegations of electoral fraud in many constituencies.

"We can be silent, but this is our responsibility to ensure that injustice does not happen again in all the coming elections," he stressed.

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