

## **Stop boasting, Rafizi Ramli tells the PM**

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**Kow Gah Chie**

PKR secretary-general Rafizi Ramli advised Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today to stop boasting that the majority of Malaysians support him.

“If I were his media adviser, I would advise him to shut up because the more comments like that are made, the more his popularity will plunge,” Rafizi said at a press conference.

“He should be magnanimous and say, ‘I hear you, yellow minions, and I will see what can I do,’” Rafizi said.

“This is better than Najib saying, ‘while these people (at the Bersih 4 rally) don't support me, there are more who support me,’” he added.

The PKR lawmaker was referring to Najib's comment that he was unfazed by Bersih 4, which demanded his resignation over 1MDB and RM2.6 billion donation he received.

Najib even cited some media reports claiming that only 20,000 people turned up for the rally.

“The moment I saw this, I took to Twitter and wrote, ‘if you don't support Najib, please retweet’. I got 7,000 responses in two days,” said Rafizi.

Rafizi, who claims to have some 200,000 followers, added that it has been, over the last five years, pretty tough to get even 200 netizens to retweet on an issue.

“To get 7,000 retweets, it speaks volumes,” he said.

A survey by Merdeka Center on Najib's popularity last last year also showed a significant drop in the people's satisfaction with him.

Rafizi also rebutted the claims that Malays at the Bersih 4 rally made up only 10 percent of the participants.

Indeed, Malay participants made up 25 percent of the 500,000 participants that Bersih estimates took part in the two-day rally, he said.

“I don't think there was a marked decrease in Malay participation in the Bersih rally this year. Even if there was a drop, only a 20,000 drop from previous Bersih rallies,” he said, adding the drop was due to the absence of PAS from the rally.

He estimated that approximately 100,000 hardcore Malay rally goers attended the Bersih rally over the two days.

The difference is that the numbers of non-Malay participants swelled up drastically to the point that, psychologically, one felt that all of the rally goers were Chinese, Rafizi added.

### **More will join Opposition parties**

Meanwhile, Rafizi said he anticipated more newbies will join Opposition parties in the post-Bersih 4 rally era, as the rakyat is no longer satisfied with merely voicing its concerns but are now willing to join the political struggle.

"(I expect) many will join the parties every day," he said.

PKR also announced that two youth parliamentarians, Wan Abdullah Mujahid, 27 and Mohd Mustaqim Abdul Jalil, 25, joined the party's youth wing today.

Wan Abdullah, a Syariah law graduate, who owns media, agriculture, food and textile businesses, has chosen PKR as the platform to realise his struggle to reform the nation and free it from corruption.

He was also in the humanitarian mission to Gaza and Lebanon from 2005 to 2013.

When asked if he was interested in being fielded as candidate in the next general election, he said, it was up to the party leadership to decide.

"Many from the divisions and branches are more qualified than me. Right now, it's not my priority," he said.

Mustaqim, a preacher with a diploma in Islamic studies, was not present at press conference, which was called at short notice.