

Zahid: Blessing in disguise from Bersih picture stomping incident

MalaysiaKini.com

Sept 6th, 2015

Alyaa Azhar

Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi believes there is a "blessing in disguise" from the incident where the picture of Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak and PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang was stomped by Bersih protesters.

"The blessing in disguise is that PAS members are also angry with the demonstration by Bersih.

"God willing, not in the name of politics but in the name of our leaders being insulted, Umno and PAS will be taking the same action," he said, to loud applause from Masjid Tanah Umno delegates today.

He added that even if one were to disagree with the leaders, they should not have done such a thing.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Zahid, who is also home minister, confirmed that as of 8am today, 267 police reports have been lodged against the alleged four people responsible behind the incident.

"So you don't have to ask us to take action, action is on the way," he said.

Photographs were spread online after the Bersih rally, showing participants stomping on a superimposed image of Najib hugging Abdul Hadi.

The incident led to multiple reports lodged by PAS members and the rally's organisers denouncing the incident.

Anti-establishment groups

Meanwhile, citing "social media reports" Ahmad Zahid said 80 percent of those who attended the Bersih rally were from "anti-establishment groups".

"Action will be taken without prior warning, so don't get angry with the police, the Home Ministry or the federal government.

"Be angry with yourself," he said.

Admitting that it was impossible to arrest everyone who attended the Bersih rally, he however vowed that the rally's organisers would face legal action.

"They will not escape legal action because they were the ones who created negative perceptions," he said.

Elaborating further on facing "mind wars" with anti-establishment groups, Zahid said "crafting" is needed.

"We need to do crafting where we need to take note the issues raised by them.

"And then we need to prepare a storyline, on the content that we want to project. And then we decide on the storyline we want to tell," he said.

The Bersih rally, which saw tens of thousands of participants and held over the last weekend ended peacefully without major untoward incidents. Police however had called in the rally's organisers for questioning, soon after the rally had concluded.

Copyright © 1999-2012 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd

Source: <http://www.malysiakini.com/news/311280>