

Bersih takes 'quit Najib' campaign to Parliament

MalaysiaKini.com

Nov 2nd, 2015

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Electoral reform group Bersih today brought 31,000 postcards and online petition letters collected through 'Undi Tidak Percaya' campaign to the lawmakers in Parliament.

The campaign, launched on Oct 8, was meant to get the rakyat to pressure their lawmakers to vote Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak out in Parliament.

But only nine voters in Pekan had signed the petition to call on their MP Najib to resign.

However, the Bersih group was blocked from entering a temporary makeshift building, despite being allowed to enter the Parliament compound.

The main Parliament building is under renovation.

"We have collected 31,000 postcards and letters to be sent out to the 211 MPs," said Bersih chairperson, Maria Chin Abdullah, who led the group of 10 volunteers.

"The campaign will go on until they take the vote (in Parliament)," she said.

Security personnel, however, 'confiscated' the postcards and online petition letters, which were placed inside separate envelopes.

"We were not allowed to enter Parliament as we didn't inform the Parliament secretariat first," Maria Chin said.

The Bersih volunteers waited patiently for the BN representatives to come out for their lunch break.

When the BN lawmakers emerged, the volunteers grabbed the boxes of postcards and letters from the security personnel and started distributing the contents.

Ahmad Lai Bujang (BN-Sibuti) ignored the Bersih group.

"This is not the voice of the majority. The majority of the people want Najib as prime minister," he said.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nancy Shukri accepted only one envelope, but refused to take the rest of postcards and letters meant for BN elected representatives.

"I am not authorised to hand these postcards and letters to the other MPs," said Nancy (BN-Batang Satong).

'Must check IC first'

Annuar Abd Manap (BN-Sekijang) said he must check the identity cards of the petitioners first.

But he added: "I have to support (Najib). I still support (Najib)," he said when asked about his stand.

Deputy speaker Ismail Mohamed Said, who was seen holding copies of the online petition letters while walking outside the Parliament building, declined to comment.

The Bersih group, however, had no problem passing the letters and postcards to opposition lawmakers, including PAS.

PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, DAP organising secretary Anthony Loke, Amanah committee member Khalid Abdul Samad, PSM leader Michael Jeyakumar Devaraj, and former PAS vice-president Mahfuz Omar received them on the behalf of their party's lawmakers.

The BN Backbencher Council chairman Shahrir Abdul Samad agreed to distribute the postcards and letters to BN backbenchers.

Bersih hopes to meet Dewan Rakyat speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia to discuss matters related to the no-confidence vote against Najib, said Maria Chin.

Pandikar had said he would pressure the government to debate no-confidence motion against Najib if the opposition submits a list of those who are against the prime minister.

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Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/318115>