

## **Zahid: Gov't won't entertain Bersih 4's demands**

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There is no need for the government to entertain any demands made during the Bersih 4 rally because it is an unlawful assembly, said Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

"The Bersih 4 rally on Aug 29 and 30 was attended by about 35,000 people, and was declared to be not in full compliance with the law.

"Therefore there is no need for the government to entertain any demands made during that rally," Zahid, who is also home minister, said in a written parliamentary reply.

He was responding to a written question by Wong Ling Bui (DAP-Sarikei) regarding the government's response to Bersih's demands.

The answer was given on Dec 3, the last day of Parliament.

While the government has declared the rally as unlawful, Bersih 2.0 itself has been declared to be a legal entity by the High Court in 2012.

During the rally, the electoral reform advocacy group demanded for free and fair elections, a transparent government, the right to demonstrate, strengthening parliamentary democracy, and saving the economy.

Malaysiakini estimated that up to 100,000 people had turned up in support of the two-day rally at its peak.

Meanwhile to a related question, Zahid said police had opened 28 investigation papers into the Bersih rally.

In comparison, he said police had opened 15 investigation papers into the Sept 16 red shirt rally.

However, Zahid declined to reveal who is under investigation and who has been arrested, as the matter is still being probed.

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