

Bersih: Our enemy is the kleptocrat, not Jamal
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Electoral reform group Bersih does not regard the red-shirts as their enemy, as the purpose of the Nov 19 rally is to protest against corruption and Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's alleged wrongdoings.

In a statement today, its chairperson Maria Chin Abdullah said the public have a right and a duty to voice their displeasure over these issues.

"Red-shirts leader Jamal Md Yunus is not our enemy. We are not hitting the streets to fight Jamal and his band of thugs. We are not flexing our muscles or showing who has bigger numbers.

"We are protesting because keeping silent on corruption and abuse of power is not an option. We are gathering because we have a right to protest against Najib (over his alleged) mega scandals which gave our country the 'kleptocracy' label.

"Jamal is just a decoy to shift attention away from public enemy number one: None other than the prime minister himself.

"We must focus on Bersih's demands (for clean elections and eradication of corruption), which seek to make Malaysia a better place for our children," she said.

'Cops will help us'

Maria expressed confidence that the police will help facilitate a peaceful and orderly rally, just as they did for Bersih 4.

"Last year, we saw how the police kept the peace during the 34-hour long protest, where the red-shirts appeared only at the end.

"We hope that the police will be prepared for provocation by Jamal's camp to divert attention from Bersih's objectives," she said.

In view of this, Maria urged Malaysians not to be concerned over Jamal's threats and take part in the Bersih 5 rally.

The police have claimed that the notices submitted by Bersih, as part of the requirement under the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012, were defective and thus the rally on Saturday was unlawful.

Nevertheless, Bersih has claimed it has fulfilled the legal requirements and will be pressing ahead.

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