

Najib slams Bersih's struggle as 'fake' on eve of rally

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As Bersih prepares for its fifth rally tomorrow, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today took to his blog to denounce the electoral watchdog's struggle as “fake”.

Najib said opposition leaders have been leading Bersih's “riots” from the second assembly to the fifth.

“Isn't it already so clear that their struggle is fake and that the gathering is only a movement by the opposition party, which is masquerading itself as a non-partisan NGO, to oppose the government chosen by the people?”

“The majority of the rakyat are tired of the opposition's tactics. They only want services rendered by the government, and this is what I and my team will continue to do,” wrote Najib.

While the prime minister did not explicitly mention Bersih in his blog, his references to the second to fifth assemblies could only refer to the coalition for clean and fair elections.

Najib claimed that the second assembly saw protesters “terrorise” Kuala Lumpur to the extent that a police car was overturned, while the third saw them obeying their leaders' orders to break through the police barricade.

In the fourth rally, he said, they cheered for the ruling party's downfall, yet called themselves non-partisan.

“Finally, in this fifth rally, they honour an opposition leader who has been charged with corruption, even though they say they want to fight corruption,” wrote Najib.

He said that opposition parties had a right to criticise through the correct channels, but in Malaysia, the situation was “different”.

“The opposition parties in the country use an NGO that supposedly is not aligned to any political party and fights graft, to pressure the government through rallies.

“Everyone is aware that this NGO is a puppet of the opposition,” wrote Najib.

Bersih plans to hold its rally near Dataran Merdeka tomorrow. It is demanding clean elections, clean government, the right to dissent, strengthening of Parliament and empowerment of Sabah and Sarawak.

Sungai Besar Umno division chief Jamal Md Yunos, who leads the red-shirts, vowed to gather wherever Bersih would be on that same day.

Najib made no mention of the red-shirts in his blog post.

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