

Tian Chua to sue police, media
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Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) information chief Tian Chua, who was arrested over an attempted murder allegation on Tuesday, wants to sue the police and media for defaming him.

Speaking at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur today, the 43-year-old politician expressed anger and disappointment with what had transpired.

"I want to express my dissatisfaction on the force used by the police and the way I was manhandled by the developers even before I was arrested on March 6.

"I was shocked to hear that I was held for attempted murder. I thought I was arrested for illegal gathering or rioting. This is ridiculous," he said.

He was among the six arrested as activists, opposition politicians and squatters attempted in vain to stop a demolition exercise in Kampung Berembang, Ampang.

It was alleged that Chua had driven his vehicle through a zinc gateway set up by the developer to cordon off the area.

Yesterday, his lawyer Amer Hamzah said Chua was alleged to have driven his car and hit a fence, nearly hurting someone who was behind the fence.

Chua's version

Recounting the incident, the politician said he had followed one of the developers' trucks in order to get into the village.

"When I reached the gate, the developers tried to shut the gate. The gate wasn't shut fully and I was adamant to go in. So I proceeded slowly.

"Some developers tried to stop me so I revved my car so that they would move aside and they did. I didn't see anybody get hurt and I didn't see anybody under my tires," he added.

Chua was at Kampung Berembang to show support towards the residents there who refused to vacate the land on grounds that they were given an unfair deal by the developers and landowner.

Lawyer Latheefa Koya, who was also present at the press conference, said legal action would be taken as soon as they have gathered more evidence to show that Chua was being defamed.

She explained that the press yesterday reported that police personnel were injured but today reported that it was a worker.

"Different facts between the various press shows inconsistency. There are many witnesses including villagers and activists that were present (to support our claim)," she said.

Latheefa, who is also PKR Youth information chief, claimed that the police were biased when they arrested Chua.

"When I spoke to the police officers who arrested him, I was told he was arrested because he rammed the barricade and not that he had hurt anybody.

"Later, I was told that he was arrested for attempted murder. It's a serious allegation," she said.

She also pointed out that none of the workers sustained any injuries and that showed there was no real victim.

Barricades illegal

Meanwhile, Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM) pro-tem secretary S Arutchelvan, who has been involved with the Kampung Berembang issue since last year, said the demolition and setting-up of barricades were illegal.

He said the courts served an interim injunction on March 5 and fixed May 23 as the date to determine which party has proprietary rights over the land.

"Until that day (March 23), the developers have no right to demolish the houses. So we have a legitimate right to defend the village," he added.

He claimed that the police were practicing double standards when they arrested Chua.

"The villagers have made hundred of reports against the thugs present at the village but the police have not acted against any of the thugs.

"Instead, the police finished their investigation and 'efficiently' arrested Chua two hours after the developer complained. It's clear that the police are practicing double standards," he said.

Political links

In a related development, Chua said the developer had close connections with Selangor state government officials and disclosed several details to support this claim.

He showed evidence that Kampung Berembang developers Perspektif Masa and Cahaya Kelang Construction are subsidiaries of Acmar International - a company with joint ventures with the development arm of Selangor, Permodalan Negeri Selangor Bhd.

The board of directors in Acmar include former special officer to the Menteri Besar of Selangor Abdul Samad Maharuddin, his son Mohammad Khairul Abdul Samad and former senior assistant director in the Prime Ministers Department Mustapha Abdul Hamid.

"I speculate that the rushed job in demolishing the village involving the police, Rela (volunteer corp), developers and Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) is because the Selangor high officials need money for the coming elections," claimed Chua.

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