

Penang: 'Unruly protestors in contempt of House'
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Penang state assembly speaker Abdul Halim Hussain has condemned the protest by various groups this morning as being in "contempt" of the House.

Abdul Halim Hussain penang state SpeakerHe also described the event as being so unruly and noisy that it had disturbed this morning's proceedings.

Abdul Halim conceded the protestors' right to demonstrate peacefully and to express their views using the proper channels.

"However those who attended today's rally were unruly. They shook and pushed the gate to the compound. The gate nearly collapsed," he told a press conference at the assembly lobby.

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, his deputy P Ramasamy and state exco for religious affairs Abdul Malik Abul Kassim were also present.

This morning, some 100 people representing Balik Pulau residents, Komtar traders and Parti Cinta Malaysia members had held a noisy demonstration in front of the state assembly building.

They were upset that they were not allowed to enter the compound to meet Lim, who was presenting the 2011 budget in the House.

Abdul Halim said he has written to state police chief Ayub Yaacob, with a copy to inspector-general of police Ismail Omar, the Home Ministry and Lim.

NONEHe is seeking assistance from the police, including the federal reserve unit, to stand by for security at upcoming sittings, including that scheduled for Monday.

Abdul Halim said this was the second such incident, the first being a protest against Lim (left) in May last year when his photograph was set on fire.

"If we allow unruly protestors without police presence, can you imagine what will happen if they gate-crash? ... They would be charging into the state assembly while the proceedings are going on."

Abdul Halim said his office will hand over whatever evidence is available to the police, to help with investigations.

"We have audio recording and CCTV clips to prove their unruly act; we hope for police cooperation," he added.

'Evidence of mastermind'

Ramasamy said the police had been informed about today's protest and should have been present earlier.

NONEHowever, they only turned up to disperse protestors about 11am when the event was

almost over, he claimed.

"What if this were a Pakatan Rakyat rally? The police would have stood by with their FRU personnel, trucks, and patrol cars.

"Let them demonstrate properly but please do not come here and push, shake and climb and chain themselves to the gate."

Asked for comment, Lim said he was not aware of what happened as he was in the House at the time.

Komtar assemblyperson Ng Wei Aik, who had met the Balik Pulau representatives, claimed that the state government has evidence that "an individual in the House gave orders for the protestors to gate-crash" the proceedings.

"We will release all the evidence on Monday," he said.

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