

PM sees red over blogger's upside down flag
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The move by a blogger to fly the national flag upside down has irked Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.
MCPX

He said flying the Jalur Gemilang upside down could not be regarded as an act of mischief alone but a despicable one, what more with Malaysia about to celebrate its 51st independence anniversary.

abdullah ahmad badawi govt announce new petrol price increase 040608 04"This is uncouth behaviour, showing no respect at all for the national flag. What is there to be angry with the Malaysian flag?" he was quoted as saying by Bernama.

"If there are Malaysians who want to take up the idea that came from the pro-opposition blogger, they are insulting this important national symbol (flag)," he added.

Abdullah said the blogger came up with the idea to fly the national flag upside down hoping that others would follow suit, without thinking of the implications.

"It's all in the blog...only he can do a good job. He's simply creating trouble by coming up with dubious stories," he said.

Police should act

Kelantanese blogger Sheih (Kickdefella) had on Aug 3 launched a campaign to fly the Jalur Gemilang upside down as a symbol of the people's frustrations and as a signal of a nation in distress.

kickdefella flag upside down 200808The blogger also wrote in his blog that "it is internationally accepted that raising the flag upside down is a mark of a state in distress. It is never a mark of disrespect."

Some bloggers and commentators quickly declared their support for the idea but many, including from the opposition, were against it as they felt the national flag deserved the utmost respect.

A blog visitor wrote that in India, flying the national flag upside down as an international symbol of distress was unacceptable, and in fact an insult to the nation.

Abdullah, meanwhile, hoped the police would act on the matter.

On the televised debate between acting Gerakan president Dr Koh Tsu Koon and Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng tonight, Abdullah said it was apt.