

Agong's Statement Is The Last Reminder
Malaysianmirror.com
July 5, 2011

KAJANG -- The special statement by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin on the planned illegal rally in the federal capital on Saturday, is the last reminder to the public not to take part in it, said Home Minister Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

He said the statement by Tuanku Mizan clearly indicated the seriousness of the matter because it could disrupt peace and harmony and the nation's image at the international level.

He said the developments on the illegal street demonstration became international news material, causing the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to be concerned and forcing him to issue the special statement as a wake up call to Malaysians.

"I hope the public can look at it seriously because it is not possible for His Majesty to talk about it in such a manner, state rulers have also spoken against it (the illegal demonstration) while the authorities have also issued warnings not to participate in it," he told reporters after launching the National Anti-Drugs Agency's 1Malaysia Squad here yesterday.

On Sunday, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong urged the people not to be overly influenced by the practices in other countries, saying harmony and stability were vital foundations for a country and which all quarters must protect.

His Majesty said that when any problem cropped up, a civilised society must resolve it through consultations and not follow emotions, as the Malay saying goes, "Yang Dikejar Tak Dapat Yang Dikendong Bercikiran (Not getting what we chase after and spilling what we carry).

Hishammuddin, who is also Umno vice-president said, Tuanku Mizan issued the statement at the appropriate time when irresponsible quarters with self-interests at heart continued to incite the public to join the illegal street demonstration.

Hishammuddin said police were prepared to face subversive elements using its own methods including detaining those involved under the Emergency Ordinance (Public Order and Prevention of Crime, 1969) and Internal Security Act as preventive measures to ward off more serious matters from taking place.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Koh Tsu Koon said all quarters seeking to hold illegal rallies must take heed Tuanku Mizan's statement.

He said they should on the other hand hold discussions and peaceful dialogue in the principle of moderation to overcome any issue regarding election.

"The issue (elections) should not be politicised especially by opposition parties who seem to be dissatisfied after they experienced defeat after defeat in several by-elections which were recently held.

"After March 2008 and a year later, when they won seven of eight by-elections, the issue did not arise, but after the following eight times until Merlimau and Kerbau, it became a hot issue because Barisan Nasional scored 7-1...this is suspected to have political elements," he

told a press conference at Parliament lobby here yesterday.

Koh, who is also Gerakan president, said it was the nature of the opposition to protest against their opponents' victory if they experienced losses in any election since 30 years ago and they were only happy when they won.

"When Lim Kit Siang (DAP) won big in Penang during the 2008 general election, the opposition kept quiet but we (Barisan Nasional) were not angry with the people and accepted our losses," he said.

Health minister Liow Tiong Lai asked the public to be aware that the organisers of the illegal gathering were not sincere in seeking a settlement in wanting a clean and fair election.

The MCA deputy president said the people should not allow themselves to be made use of by the opposition in their aspiration to topple the government.

"The Election Commission (EC) had called them to discuss their demands, but was arrogantly rejected by them.

"So, we can see that they prefer to carry out demonstrations from settling problems, the people must see now as to who want to and are prepared to settle problems," he told reporters after witnessing the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Health Ministry and University Tunku Abdul Rahman at Sungai Long near here yesterday.

He also said that it was impossible for the organisers to fulfil their promise that the assembly would be carried out peacefully.

In KANGAR, Mufti of Perlis Dr Juanda Jaya called on the people to adhere to the instruction of Yang di-Pertuan Agong concerning the illegal rally.

He said the King's words should be adhered to by all citizens of Malaysia for mutual benefit and loyalty to the country.

"In the Constitution of Malaysia, His Majesty is above the interests of racial and political entities. Any interpretation that contravene the words of His Majesty can be construed as disobedience," he told reporters here.

Juanda said all quarters should be responsible in ensuring the peace and stability of the country by adhering to the law.

"Stern action should be taken against those who try to shake the country's stability and harmony," he added.

(Bernama)

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