

Call To Invoke ISA Against Bersih Rally Organiser
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SHAH ALAM -- Yayasan Pengaman Malaysia (Pengaman) urged the police to invoke the Internal Security Act (ISA) against the organiser of a rally on Saturday, should the situation become threatening.

Its chairman, Samsuri Arshad, who is a former deputy inspector-general of police, said it was appropriate for the police to do so if investigations indicated that chaos, violence and destruction could occur as a result of the rally.

"However, this depends on police discretion, based on information from their special intelligence," he told reporters here, yesterday.

He said the police had reasonable grounds to reject the permit to hold a demonstration, based on local and foreign security trends.

He added that authorities should freeze the assets of the organiser, including funds raised to threaten national peace and security.

Meanwhile, Senator Boon Som Inong, who represents the minority group of Siamese descendents, asked the public to heed the advice of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin, last Sunday.

"All quarters need to respect the trust given by Tuanku Mizan to the government, led by Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak, who was given a mandate by the people in the last election," he said in a statement.

Gagasan Badan Ekonomi Melayu (Gabem) chairman Abdul Rahim Thamby Chik said the attempt to involve the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in the rally, ridiculed the institution of monarchy.

"The organiser planned this rally to divert the public's attention from the issue of morals currently surrounding the de facto opposition leader, Anwar Ibrahim," he said.

Abdul Rahim said the government made the right decision to ban the demonstration, as such events only have a negative impact on traders, especially the bumiputera, and tarnish the country's image.

(Bernama)