

Staging Walkout Is Pure Dramatics
MalaysianMirror.com
21 March 2012
Dr Wee Ka Siong

I am saddened that my fellow Parliamentarians, despite sitting on the opposite fence, have once again resorted to their typical walkouts despite debates still ongoing in the august Dewan Rakyat. The only difference is that this was done after a vote was taken.

It is nothing new for Pakatan Rakyat members of Parliament to stage walkouts. It was as recent as 29 November 2011, when Pakatan elected representatives marched out during debate on the Peaceful Assembly Bill without even raising any objections. Other examples of walkouts include:

- On 16 March 2010, when Deputy Speaker Ronald Kiandee refused to allow a debate on a motion by the Home Ministry which directed the Inspector-General of Police to ensure that roads leading to Parliament were free from obstacles at all times. Pakatan had refused to partake in the debate on the royal address
- On 30 June 2008, against (then) Deputy Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's ministerial statement explaining further details of the 9th Malaysia Plan mid-term review

For the first time in history, voters gave Pakatan the opportunity to deny BN a two-third majority in Parliament in 2008. It was the aspiration of the electorates that Pakatan federal legislators give voice to the voiceless on Bills, Acts and current issues. Instead of reflecting the views of the very people who made them lawmakers as is expected of them, Pakatan unfortunately repaid the constituents' trust by staging walkouts.

Lights! Camera! Action!

Wither democracy as the rakyat's hopes came crashing down when Pakatan members of Parliament prefer to snub the Dewan Rakyat. In a democracy, elected representatives are expected to raise their support or objection for any issue. But in typical Pakatan fashion, the Opposition leaving the chambers in a huff is none other than to turn the Parliament building into some theatre, hoping to make a spectacle of themselves to solicit sympathies. It is likely that Pakatan does not want differing perspectives and solutions to be raised

The snub and boycott by all three Pakatan allies, i.e. DAP, PAS and PKR against the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Lynas rare earth refinery which was intended to discuss issues and remedies surrounding the Gebeng-based plant shows that Pakatan is more interested in protesting just to make noise. Rather than fully representing the aspirations of the masses and placing importance on the issue by addressing it, Pakatan lawmakers are more keen and adept to disrupt proceedings by creating dramatics and maelstrom.

DR WEE KA SIONG is MCA Youth National Chairman

(The views expressed above belongs to the author in its entirety and does not represent the opinion of Malaysian Mirror in any way)

