

Is KL Mayor Flexing His Muscles?

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I am appalled by the warning made by Fuad Ahmad Ismail, mayor of Kuala Lumpur, to Bersih that the participants will face the music if they gather at Dataran Merdeka on April 28, 2012.

As the Prime Minister, Home Minister and even IGP have sort of given the nod to the peaceful rally on 28 April 2012, by Bersih and Himpunan Hijau, what's the rationale of Fuad Ahmad to deter Bersih from gathering at Dataran Merdeka? Is he trying to show to his big masters in the federal government, i.e. Najib and Hishamuddin, that he is a mayor with power in Kuala Lumpur and that he dares to clamp down peaceful assemblies even when the federal government is hesitant to offend the crowd? Or is he trying to 'sabotage' the 'lenient attitude' of BN government to the rakyat who pursues electoral reforms and peaceful assemblies prior to the General Election?

We have observed that the police and federal government leaders have shown their tolerance to people who want to have peaceful assemblies in the past few months. However, one might wonder whether Najib and Hishamuddin are trying to use the mayor of KL, Fuad, as their representative or 'puppet' to stop this peaceful assembly of the rakyat.

As Kuala Lumpur is under the control of the federal government, we would like to urge BN leaders to take a stand on whether Fuad's statement represents the stand of the federal government, or if in fact Fuad made this statement on his own as a sign of disobedience to his big masters in the government.

If Fuad's statement doesn't represent the stand of the federal government, then we would like to urge the Prime Minister or the Home Minister to openly reprimand him for his foolish statement that has angered the public.

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