

Bersih 2.0 About fight against abuse of power, says Ambiga
The Edge Malaysia
July 12, 2011
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Bersih 2.0 rally on July 9, which saw about 1,600 protestors detained when they converged on Kuala Lumpur city centre, is not only about electoral reforms.

Its chairman Datuk Ambiga Sreenivasan said on Tuesday, July 12 that the fight was "against abuse of power and suppression of civil rights".

She said Bersih 2.0 planned to hold public consultations around the country to record the people's testimony on this issue.

Meanwhile, Parti Gerakan joined the DAP in criticising Perkasa's Datuk Ibrahim Ali and Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Ali Rustam for their suggestion that the government should revoke Ambiga's citizenship.

"Although Gerakan does not agree with street protest, yet Gerakan is in the opinion that revoking Ambiga's citizenship will only create more problems," he said on Tuesday.

"If Ambiga's citizenship should be revoked, then shouldn't people like Ibrahim Ali be revoked of his citizenship first for making so many seditious statements over the past few months? If Ibrahim Ali can be spared of any punishment despite making seditious and unconstructive remarks, then Ambiga should not be treated this way either," said Mah.

He pointed out now that Bersih 2.0 has become a global news receiving attention worldwide, the act of revoking Ambiga's citizenship will surely receive a lot of criticism and condemnation internationally.

"Besides, having seen the support Bersih 2.0 manages to get, revoking Ambiga's citizenship will also create further anger amongst BERSIH supporters nationwide," he said.

Mah said all parties should resort to a more consultative process to solve the problem and not resort to revoking a person's citizenship.

He pointed out Malaysians were more informed and well educated, apart from the supporters who turned up during the rally, there was an even bigger silent majority who wanted to see less politicking from all parties involved.

On Monday, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said ordinary peace-loving Malaysians were fed up and repulsed by the duo's uncivilised demands.

Lim, who is the MP for Bagan, described Ali Rustam's statement that it was "better to just lose one person than to lose a lot of lives" was a thinly veiled threat and utterly irresponsible as an elected chief minister.

Lim, who is Penang Chief Minister, said: "Such uncouth remarks are uncalled for and not only unjustifiable but also unconstitutional with racist and seditious intent."

He said Article 9 of the Federal Constitution stated: "No citizen shall be banished or excluded from the Federation".

Article 25 provided for the revocation of citizenship only for naturalised citizens, that is "(1) The Federal Government may by order deprive of his citizenship any person who is a citizen by registration under Article 16A or 17 or a citizen by naturalisation if satisfied – (a) that he has shown himself by act or speech to be disloyal or disaffected towards the Federation".

"In other words, no Malaysian whose parents are also Malaysians can have their citizenship revoked unless they themselves renounce it. This shows that there is no basis for such a demand by both Ibrahim Ali and Ali Rustam," Lim said.

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Source: <http://www.theedgemaalaysia.com/politics/189554-bersih-20-about-fight-against-abuse-of-power-says-ambiga.html>