

Bersih leaders in Istana Negara
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 5 — Bersih 2.0 leaders are believed to be in an audience with the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong right now, to discuss their Saturday capital march.

Members of the election watchdog championing reforms were spotted entering the Istana Negara this afternoon.

Bersih's Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan and two other steering committee members, Zaid Kamaruddin and national laurate Datuk A. Samad Said were seen passing through the palace gates just before 2pm today.

The trio declined comment when approached by waiting journalists.

Bersih's other top leaders also kept mum.

"No comments. We will let you know if anything [happens]," Maria Chin Abdullah, who is also Empower chief, told *The Malaysian Insider* when contacted.

Yesterday, Bersih said it would be seeking an audience with the King and pledged it will call off the rally if told to do so.

"Bersih 2.0 offers its deep appreciation to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong for his support on the people's aspiration to reform the election system," Ambiga **(picture)** said last night, in a response to the King's statement urging the grassroots movement and the federal government to sit down and discuss matters ahead of the controversial Saturday rally.

"Bersih 2.0 will abide by his majesty's advice to hold a dialogue towards achieving a consensus on electoral reform and the development of democracy in Malaysia," she added.

Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin had stepped in to defuse tension on Sunday night, advising the Najib administration and Bersih 2.0 to hold consultations over the issue of free and fair elections.

The constitutional monarch rarely issues edicts or statements but the heightened atmosphere over the past week has prompted Istana Negara's intervention.

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