

Penang CPO promises 'personal attention' to incident

Bernama

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GEORGE TOWN (Aug 19, 2011): Penang's police chief has given the assurance that he is giving "personal attention" to solving the recent arson case in which the state DAP headquarters' frontage was torched during the pre-dawn hours on Aug 18, 2011.

Stressing that the police are working to prevent the incident from becoming a "trend", deputy commissioner Datuk Wira Ayub Yaakub said a special task force has been set up to look into beefing up security and nabbing the culprits.

"We don't want this to become trend. We want to resolve this as soon as possible," he said during a visit to the headquarters located in a terrace shophouse at Jalan Talipon here, today.

State authorities suspect that the attack was coordinated with the splashing of the Seberang Perai Municipal Council (MPSP) complex entrance with red paint on Thursday morning. This is the second time this year that the MPSP's building has been vandalised.

On Aug 14, the party's headquarters, along with another office at Lorong Seratus Tahun which serves as the service centre of the DAP's Komtar assemblyman Ng Wei Aik, were splashed with red and orange paints by unknown attackers on motorbikes.

A witness has reported to the police that he saw a man on a motorcycle throwing a lit material into the DAP office at Jalan Talipon at about 3.30am on Thursday.

"We are very serious and not taking this as a game," Ayub said, adding that police are concerned that the incident was pre-planned.

"We hope people with information will come forward and help us solve this case," he added, assuring confidentiality for informants.

Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, who was also present today, said there seemed to be a trend towards political violence in the state.

He pointed to a lack of action against a mob that held a rowdy demonstration against the state government on July 1 in George Town before proceeding to block traffic in the mid-span of the Penang Bridge, resulting in a 10km-long jam.

Lim said he had received numerous calls of outrage and concern over the attacks, and urged DAP members to stay calm and awaiting the police to complete their investigations.

He added that he has also expressed his concerns to Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein who in turn assured that the police have been asked to expedite investigations and take appropriate action.

"I understand the feelings of our members on this matter, but I believe that as a mature party we will face this calmly and with fortitude," he said.

"Do not play into the hands of extremists who want to burn the people's sensitivities," Lim added. "We will continue to struggle for all people, especially those who are in need, regardless of race, religion or gender."

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