

Bersih 3.0 not 'blameless' from rally violence, says DAP leader
The Malaysian Insider
May 05, 2012
By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal

KUALA LUMPUR, May 5 — The organisers of Bersih 3.0 cannot squarely blame the police for the violence that occurred during last Saturday's rally for free and fair elections, Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim has said.

"Bersih 3.0 organisers are not a group of angels descended from heaven who are completely blameless.

"The Bersih organisers should accept that there are substantial elements within the rally from people whose intentions were to create havoc and cause chaos as long as it is possible," the DAP vice-chairman was quoted by The Star as saying.

"Instead of shifting all the blame on the police, they need to realise that they are at fault too. Besides, they are not a group of angels descended from heaven who are completely blameless," he added.

Tunku Abdul Aziz (picture), who is Transparency International Malaysia's founding president, said that although he did not deny there were some Bersih rally participants who genuinely sought electoral reforms, "but as evident, there were people who thought differently".

"Bersih 3.0 lost control of their agenda because their agenda was hijacked," said the DAP leader.

Tunku Abdul Aziz has been the lone voice within the DAP and Pakatan Rakyat (PR) who had openly declared his rejection of Bersih 3.0, saying the event encourages Malaysians to "break the law".

"My opposition to this kind of demonstration is — we are encouraging people to break the law and we are supposed to be lawmakers.

"I think there is a contradiction here.

"I am in favour of us assembling if that is not breaking the law but breaking the law is something that I cannot support," he had said days before the April 28 rally.

His outspoken remarks earned him a rebuke from DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng who had said Tunku Abdul Aziz had embarrassed the party with his remarks.

"I am therefore compelled to publicly chastise Senator Tunku Abdul Aziz's irresponsible remarks opposing Bersih's right to assemble peacefully... to press for clean, free, fair and independent elections.

"Senator Tunku is alone amongst the entire DAP Central Executive Committee (CEC) in his stand on Bersih 3.0 at Dataran Merdeka," Lim said two weeks ago.

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright © 2012 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/bersih-3.0-not-blameless-from-rally-violence-says-dap-leader/>