

Cops probing Bersih 3.0 as attempt at violent revolution
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 — Police are investigating the Bersih 3.0 rally as a possible attempt to usurp the government through violent demonstrations, Bernama Online reported today.

"Several fresh arrests have been made following the publication of the photographs of the demonstrators, and several people have telephoned us to volunteer information on the incident," Tan Sri Ismail Omar was reported as saying in the report.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak on Friday asserted that the rally for free and fair elections was an attempt to oust the country's duly-elected government, a claim that has been echoed by former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The election watchdog today denied the claim, and insisted that Bersih 3.0's objectives were purely to demand a clean and fair polls process.

Today, the Inspector-General of Police also dismissed as unfounded claims that agents provocateurs had infiltrated the rally to spark of scenes of chaos.

"Do not make nonsensical accusations... you must be responsible. Nevertheless, every claim will be investigated," he said, during a meet-the-public session in Kulim today.

The IGP also asked that the public be patient with the police probe on the April 28 rally.

"Give us some time to conduct the probe. Once the investigation is done, we will submit the papers to the public prosecutor," he added.

Ismail previously pledged a comprehensive probe of events during the rally for free and fair elections, which turned chaotic after riot police began firing tear gas and water cannons at demonstrators for breaching a court-ordered boundary.

City police have so far released the photographs of over 90 individuals wanted over the events on April 28, but none of its own despite Ismail's promise that all offenders would be hauled up for their roles in the chaos.

Despite an initially peaceful start to the rally, Bersih's third since 2007, police would later take measures that are now being condemned as more brutal than those employed during last year's tumultuous July 11 Bersih 2.0 rally.