

Bersih 3.0 Probe Panel Holds Second Meeting, Watches Video Clips
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PUTRAJAYA, June 4 (Bernama) -- CID deputy director Datuk Abu Samah Mat Monday gave a briefing at the second meeting of the Bersih 3.0 rally independent probe panel which was short of two members who declined appointment citing health reasons and pressure of work, respectively.

Abu Samah briefed the panel on the police approach to handling the April 28 gathering which turned violent, resulting in injury to policemen and journalists, among others.

Panel chairman Tun Mohammed Haniff Omar told reporters former Chief Judge of Borneo Tan Sri Steve Shim declined the appointment citing health reasons while Petronas Group Corporate Affairs senior general manager Datuk Mohammad Medan Abdullah was unable to join the panel due to a heavy work schedule.

Their replacements would be announced soon, he said.

Besides Haniff, the other members of the panel are Sinar Harian Group managing director Datuk Husammuddin Yaacob, Sin Chiew Group legal advisor Liew Peng Chuan and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia psychologist Prof Dr Ruzmi Ismail.

Haniff said the panel watched 40 minutes of video clips out of the 73-hour duration provided by the police. "The police showed us 40 minutes of video clips, as such there are many aspects of the video recordings that we have yet to watch," he added.

The panel members sought an explanation from the police on the standard operating procedure from various levels utilised to control the gathering.

Haniff said the video clips the panel watched were on the conduct of the rally participants around Kuala Lumpur and the damage to property which occurred during the gathering.

Also screened were recordings of speeches by political party leaders in Kuala Lumpur and in the states, urging the public to join the gathering.

Haniff said the panel would also scrutinise video clips or evidence provided by other parties so that the investigation would be transparent.

As such, he again urged those who had evidence, including the media, Bar Council and individuals, to hand it over to the panel secretariat.

He said the panel also wished to invite experts from other countries, such as the United Kingdom, United States and Canada, to give their views on how they handled large gatherings in their own countries.

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