

**'Opposition leaders to blame'**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: Opposition leaders should take responsibility for indirectly influencing the behaviour of some Bersih supporters at the Merdeka Day eve countdown on Thursday, said Barisan Nasional leaders.

MCA Young Professionals Bureau chief Datuk Chua Tee Yong said previous incidents, such as when DAP leaders stepped on a doormat bearing the pictures of three former Perak opposition lawmakers at the DAP annual convention in 2009, had probably inspired Bersih supporters to do the same on the picture of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"The Bersih supporters were probably trying to follow what the DAP leaders did."

In the 2009 incident, party leaders stepped on the pictures of former Parti Keadilan Rakyat assemblymen Jamaluddin Mohd Radzi of Behrang and Mohd Osman Mohd Jailu of Changkat Jering as well as former DAP assemblyman of Jelapang Hee Yit Foong.

The trio had quit their parties to become independent lawmakers, causing the collapse of the Perak government led by the alliance of DAP, Pas and PKR.

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng, who was at the convention, claimed that he had tried to avoid stepping on the pictures.

At the Merdeka countdown, some supporters of Bersih, which claimed to champion a better electoral system for the country, had defiled the pictures of Najib, his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, and Election Commission chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof.

Others had also brought a "new flag" to the illegal rally, which they allegedly demanded should replace the Jalur Gemilang.

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