

Stop intimidating voters, Bersih 2.0 tells BN
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 11 — Bersih 2.0 today warned Barisan Nasional (BN) against frightening voters from choosing the opposition in its campaigning in Election 2013.

The election watchdog pointed out that pro-BN billboards have been erected across the country. The messages insinuate that the country will descend into chaos should Pakatan Rakyat (PR) come to power.

“What are they saying? The message is if you don’t vote BN there will be trouble,” Bersih 2.0 co-chair Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan told reporters here.

“Is that really the campaign that BN wants to run rather than based on their policies?”

Billboards carrying pro-BN government messages have been cropping up all across the country, especially along the North-South Expressway where they can be spotted every few hundred metres.

The advertisements ask Malaysians to vote for a “Barisan 1 Malaysia”, while highlighting the various 1 Malaysia-themed initiatives launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak since he came into power in 2009.

Ambiga said Bersih had received reports that voters were being personally warned by BN candidates to not vote for PR.

Bersih 2.0 also expressed their concern over the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act (SOSMA) 2012 which will be used by the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) to ensure Election 2013 will run smoothly.

SOSMA was passed last year as the replacement to the Internal Security Act (ISA) 1960, and allows suspects to be detained for up to 28 days.

According to Bukit Aman Legal and Prosecution Division principal assistant director Datuk Razali Basri today, suspects arrested during the campaign or election period, would be investigated under the act.

“There’s no need to threaten the people,” Ambiga said.

The group wished to see PDRM to discuss the law enforcer’s standard operating procedure (SOP) while dealing with violence during political rallies.

PDRM has announced that it will station police officers during Election 2013 to ensure security and safety at polling centres.

Special enforcement teams consisting of a policeman, parties’ representatives, and officers from the municipal council and the Election Commission (EC) will be formed in all 222 parliamentary constituencies.

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