

Bersih slams Tunku Aziz's 'baseless' claims, says will continue clean polls fight
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By Ida Lim

KUALA LUMPUR, April 12 — Bersih 2.0 has slammed Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim for his allegedly “wild, baseless and defamatory” remarks against it, with the polls watchdog stating it refuses to be deterred by such “untrue” attacks in its fight for clean elections.

The electoral reform group denounced Tunku Aziz's (picture) alleged claim this week that it was an “instrument of money laundering”, noting that it had recently sued a publication over “mischievous allegations” on its funding.

“BERSIH 2.0's accounts are open for all to see and we invite Tunku Aziz to do so,” the movement's steering committee wrote in a statement today, indicating that it receives funds from Malaysians who believe in its cause.

“We consider the accusation that Bersih 2.0 is laundering foreign funds for the benefit of a political party, to be an expression of contempt against these Malaysians and the love they have for their country,” it later added.

The Bersih 2.0 group, which has been training citizens to be election observers, expressed contempt at Tunku Aziz's alleged move to link it to a plan to disrupt the voting process.

“As for Tunku Aziz's attempt to implicate Bersih 2.0 in alleged plans by ‘certain parties’ to disrupt the electoral process, we consider this to be contemptible.”

“We ask that Tunku Aziz disclose the purported ‘evidence’ that he has,” the group said in challenging the former DAP vice-chairman who is now a vocal critic of the opposition Pakatan Rakyat (PR).

In an earlier part of the statement, Bersih 2.0 said it was “untrue” that it was involved in a plot to cause chaos in the country on election day.

“We further denounce in the strongest terms his recent attempt to implicate Bersih 2.0 in an alleged strategy to create ‘chaos’ on polling day.”

The watchdog also publicly stated that it would not entertain Tunku Aziz's April 11 letter to it, where he had allegedly requested it to sign a pledge to ensure a peaceful process on May 5 — the date when Malaysians will be turning up to vote.

“We are committed to a peaceful election day,” it said, saying that has always been the movement's stand.

Despite what the movement claims is “negative campaign material” by “certain parties” targeted at it, Bersih 2.0 refused to be deterred by such attacks.

“We assure Malaysians that regardless of these baseless attacks, Bersih 2.0's demand for free and fair elections and for a more just and democratic Malaysia will not falter,” it said.

Bersih urged Tunku Aziz to ensure the “transparency, accountability and impartiality” of the Election Commission and strongly condemn the political violence and smear campaigns that

were happening ahead of Election 2013.

Bersih 2.0 had lead the country in two massive rallies for electoral reform, with huge crowds turning up in yellow to push its eight demands: the cleaning up of the electoral roll, the use of indelible ink, a minimum period of 21 days for campaigning, free access to the media for all parties, the strengthening of public institutions, the cessation of corruption and an end to dirty political campaigning.

The EC has introduced various changes to improve the voting process, such as indelible ink and postal voting for overseas voters.

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