

Pakatan condemns ceramah attacks, alleges bid to sow fear
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 24 — Pakatan Rakyat (PR) condemned today what it described as an attempt to sow fear and provoke disorder after two Barisan Nasional (BN) ceramah events were hit by explosions and arson attacks last night.

In two separate incidents, a blast took place just outside BN's operations centre in Nibong Tebal, Penang, injuring a 35-year-old campaign worker while one of the coalition's tents was set on fire in Sekinchan, Selangor.

"The timing of the explosions and location of these devices are highly suspicious and are clearly meant to create fear and provoke disorder.

"KEADILAN and Pakatan Rakyat, categorically condemn the culprits who are responsible for these bombs, explosions and arson," leader of the opposition pact, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, said in a statement today.

The opposition leader added that PR had nothing but contempt for those who would cynically endanger Malaysian lives and hope voters would not to be swayed by rumours surrounding the incidents.

"I appeal to all Malaysians, particularly those from Penang, to be vigilant, stay calm and not be swayed by rumours that may arise," he said.

Following the explosion, a police bomb squad conducted a sweep of the area and found a second explosive device in a rubbish pile near the same BN operation centre at about 2am.

Penang police chief DCP Datuk Abdul Rahim Hanafi, who inspected the site this morning, said the device was the work of a professional as it had a timer.

Abdul Rahim also told the public not to worry for their safety as the police are out in full force during the whole Election 2013 campaign.

"We believe the motive for this is merely to frighten and to create public unrest," he said.

In Sekinchan, police said a BN operation centre caught fire after unidentified persons threw two Molotov cocktails in its direction. However, no serious damage or injuries were reported.

Anwar commended the police for their quick response and their stern warning against any attempt to create chaos and the setting up of a task force to investigate these incidents.

He also urged the police to conduct its probe without fear and bring the culprits to justice.

"This investigation should be done without fear and without interference. The suspects should immediately be charged," he said.

PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail is expected to visit the Nibong Tebal explosion victim soon.

"KEADILAN and Pakatan Rakyat have made it clear in no uncertain terms that we stand against political violence in any form. We also send our regrets and sympathy to the security guard who was injured in the Nibong Tebal incident," said Anwar.

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