

DAP says will use Parliament to quiz IGP on Pakatan witch hunt
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 23 — The DAP vowed today to use its voice in Parliament to question the new Inspector-General of Police (IGP) on his alleged obsession with netting Pakatan Rakyat (PR) politicians instead of combating crime.

The authorities appear to have mounted a widespread clampdown on opposition leaders and their supporters in recent weeks, hauling in organisers of Black 505 rallies for questioning and using the Sedition Act to arrest those who allegedly called on Malaysians to protest the Election 2013 results.

In a statement here, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng flayed the police for hauling in even the party's national life adviser, the 86-year-old Dr Chen Man Hin, for questioning over the latter's use of the words "Malaysian Spring" in a private email correspondence over a year ago.

Lim asked if the newly-installed IGP Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar had made himself a willing "political tool" of the Barisan Nasional (BN) government, saying it was absurd to accuse the elderly medical doctor of a conspiracy to create public discord.

"Has the police nothing better to do than to investigate under Section 112 of the Criminal Procedure Code, an 86-year old medical doctor and former MP who had served the nation selflessly, with the ridiculous charge of plotting to overthrow the government through street demonstrations similar to those in the Arab Spring?" he said in the statement.

The probe, said Lim, was likely an "afterthought" by the police, aimed at victimising and smearing the image of leaders from the DAP, which scored the largest number of seats among all opposition parties during the just-concluded May 5 polls.

He pointed out that the email correspondence had been over a year ago and asked why recent police reports against the former Court of Appeal judge Datuk Mohd Noor Abdullah, who allegedly uttered racial slurs against the Chinese community, had not been acted on.

"Whilst Khalid was busy 'playing politics, he has failed to tackle rising crime, until even the sister of the Deputy Prime Minister in Petaling Jaya and Khalid's own sister in Mantin, were victims of house break-ins.

"Despite police claims of a drop in the crime-index, no one in Malaysia believes that they are safer or feel safe," Lim said.

"DAP will demand full answers from the new IGP in Parliament to explain his professional failure to focus on fighting crime but focus instead on fighting PR with baseless allegations," he added.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi was yesterday reported to have said that the probe on Chen proved his seriousness in fulfilling his duty to maintain peace.

Putrajaya has sought to address concerns over the crime rate and introduced crime-reduction as a National Key Result Area (NKRA), which the police and the

government's efficiency unit Pemandu said has been successful in reducing crime.

But the ubiquity of crime reports, both in the news and shared in social media, have led to doubts over the veracity of the authorities' professed drop in crime.

Crime watchdog group MyWatch also accused the police in February of massaging the crime statistics, claiming cases of snatch theft and robbery without firearms as well as burglaries and house break-ins, were higher than the published crime index from January to October 2011.

The police have denied manipulating national crime figures.

Earlier today, the police reportedly arrested three notable figures - PKR and PAS MPs Chua Tian Chang and Tamrin Ghaffar, and Anything But Umno (ABU) chief Haris Ibrahim - over their participation in a May 13 forum on the results of the May 5 polls.

In the morning, student activist Adam Adli was charged with sedition for his involvement in the same forum where he was accused of rallying Malaysians to take to the streets to topple the BN government.

PR leaders, civil society groups and opposition supporters nationwide have been protesting the results of the elections, which saw the ruling BN returned to federal power despite winning the minority of the votes cast.

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