

**Pakatan's rallies a 'political circus' aimed to cause domestic chaos, says Utusan columnist**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 27 — Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) series of "Black 505" rallies nationwide to protest the results of the May 5 polls are a mere "political circus" aimed to rile up their supporters and cause chaos in the country in a bid to topple the Barisan Nasional (BN) government, an Utusan Malaysia columnist wrote today.

In his op-ed piece in the Umno-owned Malay daily, Zulkiflee Bakar wrote that the near nightly series of gatherings that have drawn tens of thousands of people were little more than a public exercise to vent and flame their frustration at losing the election into a mammoth attempt to take power through a people's uprising.

"This is the standard of the opposition in our country," Zulkiflee said, scoffing at the opposition leaders whom he labelled as "clowns" in the political circus.

"They always do not want to accept defeat, instead desire only victory," he added.

He said the opposition was willing to act the clown and resort to sedition by harping on their alleged victory of the popular vote to confuse Malaysians on the electoral system practised in the country to reach their own political end.

Several opposition politicians, party workers and socio-political activists have been hauled up for questioning and faced charges over their role in the rallies, for which they have drawn harsh criticism from hardline members of Barisan Nasional (BN) and officials from the public institutions including the police and the Election Commission.

The DAP-PKR-PAS alliance had totalled their score of the votes and claimed to have nabbed 51 per cent of the popular vote, which they insisted would have enabled them to form the federal government if not for the gerrymander of the electoral boundaries.

BN had gained just under 47 per cent of the popular vote but won 133 seats in the 222-member Dewan Rakyat against PR's 89, which the opposition pact had blamed on electoral fraud.

"Because they are ready to do so to satisfy their political lust, they should also be prepared to accept the police's reaction in efforts to ensure the majority that had chose BN in the GE13 do not rise to oppose the opposition in their power struggle," Zulkifli wrote.

He also challenged the PR to collect evidence of electoral fraud and take their petition to court, where he said the Chief Justice had vouched will be wrapped up within six months.

"However, we believe the opposition will not be honest in this question because they prefer to hold street demonstrations that have become their 'political culture' since 1998," the columnist said, alluding to the series of "Reformasi" street demonstrations that broke out the year Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was sacked from government as deputy prime minister and finance minister.

Utusan has repeatedly reported PR of plotting to overthrow the elected BN government

through street protests similar to the revolts that swept the Middle East two years ago and felled the regimes in Egypt and Libya among several other nations.

But in a sudden about-turn, Zulkifli said he did not believe the three-party pact would be able to press forward its claim to Putrajaya as public support was not with PR.

"However in their passion they forget and deliberately forget that no matter what happens the BN government will not fall through street demonstrations.

"This is because Malaysians, including opposition supporters, do not like chaos and violence," he said.

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