

**Pakatan to challenge Sabah entry ban**  
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**By Zurairi AR**

PETALING JAYA, June 3 — Pakatan Rakyat (PR) announced today that it will contest a ban against some of its members from entering Sabah, after a letter from the Sabah Chief Minister's Office to the state Immigration Department containing the directive was leaked earlier.

Apart from PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar, her father Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang, Bersih co-chair Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan and PKR strategy director Rafizi Ramli were the names blacklisted in the letter.

"This is definitely an abuse of power. We will be challenging it in the court of law ... we will also be challenging it in the court of public opinion. We'll also challenge it in other aspect because we think this is a completely an abuse of power," said Lim in a press conference here.

According to the DAP veteran, the decision by Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman was in direct violation of Section 67 of the Immigration Act that allows Malaysians to enter the state for legitimate political purposes.

Under the Immigration Act 1959/63, Section 67 stipulates the "right to enter [the] East Malaysian state for [the] exercise of political rights".

"Every time I visit Sabah, it is for legitimate political activities, not illegitimate activities ... This happened after GE13, it shows how desperate and afraid they are about their political future," he added.

On Thursday, Nurul Izzah was barred from entering Sabah upon arriving in Kota Kinabalu to celebrate Pesta Kaamatan, or the Harvest Festival, in her personal capacity.

Musa had claimed that the move was not politically motivated, but was also reported saying that those who pose a threat to the Sabah ideals of peace harmony will not be welcomed to the state.

Nurul Izzah has since confirmed that she will challenge the Barisan Nasional (BN) state government's ban on her entry into Sabah in court.

"I am currently discussing with YB Darrell Leiking, the MP for Penampang, and other friends in Sabah's legal fraternity to consider taking legal action against the chief minister that will be filed in Kota Kinabalu soon," she told reporters on Friday.

The May 21 letter which was leaked today, sported the letterhead from Musa's office, and also said that the list was given the Sabah Cabinet's stamp of approval following its first meeting last month on May 15 — 10 days after the 13th general election.

"The Cabinet has agreed that the chief minister invoke his absolute powers under the Immigration Act and, in accordance with certification from the Sabah Royal Malaysian Police Special Branch chief, not to land these individuals to Sabah," the letter said, before it listed out the names of the five politicians and the Bersih co-chair.

According to Sabah DAP chief Jimmy Wong, a reliable source from the Immigration Department had leaked a copy of the first page of the document to him.

The document was sighted by The Malaysian Insider. From the single page, the duration of the blacklist or its reason was not stated.

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