

## **Low Yat Plaza closes early after angry Malay group gathers outside complex**

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Authorities asked businesses at the Low Yat Plaza to close early tonight after about 200 people, some of them said to be from a Malay rights group Pekida, gathered outside the building to air their "dissatisfaction" over a brawl which occurred yesterday.

Business premises had been asked to be shuttered as early as 9pm tonight, with police cordoning the area to prevent the group from trying to enter the building.

It is understood that the group had congregated in front of the building about 6pm and the number slowly grew to almost 200 by 8.45pm, ignoring police warnings against speculating on the case as it was still under investigation.

They were heard screaming derogatory and unsavoury remarks and appeared ready to charge into the premises when the management and authorities decided to close early.

A bystander captured this image showing people congregating outside the building.

Kuala Lumpur CID chief Datuk Zainuddin Ahmad has announced that the brawl last night was not racially motivated, but purely an act of revenge by a group of youths unhappy that one of their friends was arrested for allegedly stealing a mobile phone.

One of them, believed to be the group's representative, was heard telling the crowd that the gathering was about seeking justice.

"We want justice and fairness, let the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) be aware of what happened yesterday," he said.

The 7.50pm incident yesterday went viral on social networking sites with many jumping to the conclusion that it was racially motivated.

The postings on social media also said that the man currently in police custody for alleged shoplifting had been conned when purchasing a mobile phone at the shop.

It was claimed that the man had snatched a unit from a salesman after the latter had refused to replace the mobile phone he bought earlier.

Meanwhile, police tonight said the crowd slowly dispersed around 10pm after being instructed to leave the area.

"They misunderstood what had happened after reading the news on social media. The

police have advised them and some accepted the explanation but there are a few who were still unhappy," said a source.

Kuala Lumpur police chief Datuk Tajuddin Md Isa who was at the scene, once again urged the public not to speculate on what had happened and allow police to conduct their investigation on the case.

"We are going to investigate both parties thoroughly without any bias," said Tajuddin when met tonight.

Meanwhile, Zainuddin said police detained a man at the area, who was spotted 'trying to provoke' the crowd with a stick.

"Fortunately there was no damage done to the premises. We managed to control the crowd and stop it from spiraling out of control," he said.

As of tonight, KL police have arrested two more suspects to facilitate investigation into the brawl last night.

The duo were said to be among the seven who ran amok at the complex after their friend was arrested for theft. – July 12, 2015.

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