

**Fight At Low Yat Plaza Not A Racial Issue, But A Crime Case – Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak stressed today that the fight that occurred at Low Yat Plaza should be seen as a criminal act, and not a racial issue.

He said the use of the social media by some individuals to trigger a racial issue out of the incident was irresponsible and gave an inaccurate perspective of what actually happened.

The prime minister said this to reporters after handing out contributions to the homeless at a Nur Ramadan event organised by the Federal Territories Ministry at the Temporary Service Centre for the Homeless in Lorong Medan Tuanku 2, Jalan Sultan Ismail, here.

Also present was Federal Territory Minister, Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor.

Najib said he had asked Inspector-General of Police, Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar to take effective action in order to prevent the recurrence of incidents like last night's.

"This matter should be left to the police to investigate thoroughly. Action will be taken against those who broke the law.

"I wish to stress that in matters like this, the tendency is to look at it from a racial perspective. In the end, an act of crime is given a racial consideration. This should not happen in our country."

Also present was its minister, Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor.

It was reported that last night, hundreds of people gathered in front of Low Yat Plaza in protest following the fighting incident on Saturday believed to be due to a man's dissatisfaction of being accused of stealing a mobile phone from one of the shops at the plaza.

So far, police have arrested 19 individuals believed to be involved in the fighting incidents and ruckus there.

Najib said besides arousing racial sentiments through the social media, there were also individuals who posted photographs that had no connection at all with last night's incident.

Hence, he urged the public not to easily accept and believe whatever being spread through the social media, besides checking on the facts first.

"Be calm and leave it to the authorities as the police are capable of maintaining public order and ensuring justice in this case and in other matters.

"The public should not easily believe every piece of news. When something happens, check to get the actual facts. Don't be a victim of mob psychology.

(When) something happens, people want to gather (in protest)...without knowing the truth. We act based on our emotions," he said.

Asked whether the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission being slow at restricting the liberty of the social media was the cause of its misuse by irresponsible parties, he said the matter needed to be studied in depth.

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