

1Malaysia has failed, says DAP after Najib's tacit support for 'red shirt' rally
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Datuk Seri Najib Razak's tacit support for the September 16 "red shirts" rally is a "pathetic admission" of the failure of his 1Malaysia slogan, said DAP.

The party's parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang said the prime minister's endorsement of Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's green light for the Himpunan Rakyat Bersatu gathering in the capital city of Kuala Lumpur also marked the failure of Najib's leadership.

"It marked not only a great failure of Najib's premiership, but a pathetic admission of the failure of his signature 1Malaysia policy when he became the sixth prime minister some six years ago to create a united nation.

"Six years after Najib's 1Malaysia policy, the country should be having 'Kebangkitan Maruah Malaysia' rallies and not regressing to hold 'Kebangkitan Maruah Melayu' rallies – which is the very antithesis of Najib's 1Malaysia policy.

"Is Najib suggesting that there should also be 'Kebangkitan Maruah Cina Malaysia', 'Kebangkitan Maruah India Malaysia', 'Kebangkitan Maruah Orang Asli', 'Kebangkitan Maruah Iban' or 'Kebangkitan Maruah Kadazan-Dusun-Murut' rallies all over the country?" Lim asked in a statement today.

On Monday, Zahid said that Umno would not prevent its members from taking part in the rally organised by a pro-Malay rights group.

After chairing the Umno Supreme Council last night, Najib said Umno was not endorsing the gathering but neither was the party stopping members from taking part.

He also said the party was not involved in sponsoring the rally.

He said the rally should not be allowed to threaten the country's peace and harmony and should not be turned into a racially-tinged platform.

The gathering is purportedly being held to "counter" the recent Bersih 4 rally, which had called for Najib's resignation over alleged financial scandals.

The "red shirt" gathering is also being held to express anger over footage of Bersih 4 participants stomping on photographs of Najib and PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said yesterday police would summon the organisers of the gathering for a meeting, adding that the force would not allow the September 16 rally to go on.

Lim today poured scorn on Najib's statement that Umno was not behind the rally, saying that everyone could see the Malay ruling party's thumbprints all over it.

"Nobody can be wrong to regard it as an Umno or pro-Umno rally, or to be more exact, pro-Najib rally. What we are seeing is a pro-Umno or to be more exact a pro-Najib faction hijacking the Malay cause and agenda by staging a September 16 rally in pursuit of their own ends," he said.

The Gelang Patah MP said the pre-publicity campaign for the gathering already had signs of inciting racial tensions.

"It is meaningless for Najib to say that the 'red shirts' September 16 rally should not be used as a platform to incite racial tensions when the pre-publicity campaign for the rally, like red T-shirts screaming the words 'Kebangkitan Maruah Melayu' and the poster on 'mandi darah' (bloodbath) depicting a person dressed in a black Malay costume leaping in mid-air with a bloody machete in his hand hacking a person wearing a yellow Bersih shirt were clearly designed to incite racial tensions," he added.

He warned that Malaysians and the world were watching how Najib acquitted himself on the rally, telling the prime minister that it was not too late for the government to prevent the rally from being held. – September 10, 2015.

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