

Dr Mahathir just riding on Bersih 4 popularity, says 'red shirt' organiser
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An Umno division chief, who also leads a Malay rights group, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was riding on the popularity of the Bersih 4 rally to express his anger towards Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Datuk Jamal Md Yunus said the former prime minister's mind had been influenced and this led to him attending both days of the recent rally to show his unhappiness towards Najib.

He claimed that the gathering, which took place on August 29 and 30, was like a congregation of DAP's Chinese members and supporters with only 10% of the Bersih 4 rally participants being made up of Malays and Indians.

"Like I said, the presence of 90% indicates that it is a gathering of DAP Chinese. So, the 10% of Malays and Indians are mere sideshow.

"The minds of those who participated are already influenced. This included Dr Mahathir, who came to take advantage of the popularity of the illegal assembly to show his displeasure at Najib," said Jamal, who is Sungai Besar Umno division chief.

Jamal, who is also the spokesman for the Himpunan Melayu Bersatu or "red shirt" rally on September 16, said the reason for the increase in the number of Malays and Indians on the second day of the rally was because many of the Chinese protesters had gone home.

"Forty percent Malays (on Day Two) because they (the Chinese) have gone back," he said, when told that there were more Malays and Indians taking part on the second day of the rally.

Meanwhile, Jamal rubbished PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail's statement asking the NGOs to call off the rally, scheduled to take place on Malaysia Day at Bukit Bintang and Petaling Street, for fear that it could lead to racial discontent and disharmony.

"They are the leaders of the opposition. Their statements are like rubbish. They will try to justify whatever they are doing and if others were to do the same, they will go against it," said Jamal, adamant on going ahead with the planned demonstration.

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

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

It is also being held to express anger over footage of Bersih 4 participants stomping on a poster featuring the image 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. – September 10, 2015.

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