

Malay dignity not under threat, says Pak Lah
The Malaysian Insider
Sept 17, 2015
By Ram Anand

Malay dignity is not under threat, former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said, despite a 'red shirt' rally was held yesterday to purportedly preserve the community's pride.

"I don't think so," Abdullah told reporters after attending a farewell luncheon at Malaysian Islamic Understanding Institute in Kuala Lumpur today.

"Maybe some feel that way on the left or right side. As far as I know, nothing has happened to that level (Malay dignity being challenged)."

Yesterday's 'red shirt' rally, also called "Himpunan Rakyat Bersatu", by a coalition of Malay non-governmental organisations was held to counter last month's Bersih 4 rally, which organisers claimed had insulted the integrity of the Malay race.

Although he disagreed with the message of the rally, Abdullah believed it was not racial in nature.

Abdullah said that it was "all right" to hold rallies, be it Bersih or the 'red shirt' rally, as long as there was no trouble or violence.

"I don't think it's anything racial. First there were the yellow shirts, then the red shirts.

"Everyone wants to show their respective support by wearing these shirts... just don't fight. Nothing good comes of it."

Organisers of the rally had estimated that about 250,000 people turned up for the demonstration, but police estimates put it at 50,000.

Police had declared the rally legal, but said three areas – Bukit Bintang, Petaling Street and the area around Low Yat Plaza – were off limits to protesters. – September 17, 2015.

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