

Huang's comments sign of Najib's leadership failure, says PKR Youth
The Malaysian Insider
Sept 29, 2015

China's eagerness to "intervene" in Malaysian political issues via its ambassador shows how Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's leadership has failed, PKR Youth said today.

There was a risk now that the Barisan Nasional (BN) government has left Malaysia vulnerable to more foreign intervention in the future, said its chief, Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

"The Chinese Embassy's denials notwithstanding, the incident is surely a sign of the failures of Najib's leadership that foreign powers now see fit to intervene in our domestic political issues.

"It is clear and unvarnished proof that Malaysia's reputation – once the exemplar and champion of the developing world – has been tarnished seriously," said Nik Nazmi in a statement.

Nik Nazmi said that while the ambassador, Dr Huang Huikang, might have acted inappropriately, he would not have done so if Najib's government showed more leadership, principles and firmness over the "red shirt" rally.

Huang courted controversy when he visited Petaling Street in Kuala Lumpur's Chinatown on Friday, where he reportedly said Beijing was opposed to terrorism, extremism and any form of discrimination based on race.

He had said this on the eve of a planned second rally in the area by the pro-Malay "red shirt" protesters. The rally was later called off on the advice of the police.

"As it is, various leaders in the administration and the ruling Umno party issued contradictory and downright mendacious statements on this sorry affair, including the prime minister himself.

"There is a real risk that the vacuum of leadership that currently exists in Malaysia will leave us vulnerable to more foreign interventions of this kind," said Nik Nazmi.

However, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said yesterday "China did not interfere in other countries' domestic politics nor intervene in other countries' internal affairs".

He said Huang was visiting the Chinese community during the Mid-Autumn Festival, a traditional Chinese holiday that fell on Sunday, adding that it was a "normal" goodwill activity.

Huang was summoned to a meeting with Wisma Putra yesterday to clarify his remarks. – September 29, 2015.

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