

Will cops call Zahid over 'red shirt' rally, asks Kit Siang
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DAP today asked if the police will investigate Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi over his support for the "red shirt" rally planned by a pro-Malay rights group on September 16.

DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang said Zahid, who is the home minister, must explain the double standards for Umno members and participants of the Bersih 4 late last month.

"In view of the highly-charged and seditious nature of the pre-publicity for the Red Shirt rally, inciting and provoking racial hatred and tensions, is the police going to investigate Zahid?"

"Can Zahid explain why he is now talking about the 'individual rights of Umno members' to attend the Red Shirt rally when he had threatened punitive action against those who attended the Bersih 4 rally?"

"Furthermore, why the government has 'no opinion' on the rally when he was so gung-ho and hawkish in his condemnation of the Bersih 4, even personally signing the order to ban the use of yellow T-shirts?" Lim asked in a statement today.

Yesterday, Zahid said Umno would not prevent members from taking part in the Himpunan Rakyat Bersatu rally.

This followed a statement by deputy inspector-general of police Datuk Seri Noor Rashid Ibrahim, that police would not allow the gathering due to security concerns.

However, Zahid said it was up to Umno members to decide, adding that the Malay ruling party is not the organiser.

"I think it all comes down to the individual rights of the members," the deputy prime minister had said when asked if Umno was involved in the protest to be held in Jalan Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur.

The rally is being planned to "counter" the recent Bersih 4 rally, which had called for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's resignation over alleged financial scandals, as well as to protest the act of some Bersih protesters stomping on pictures of Najib and PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

Lim said the rally will also destroy the Merdeka Day and the September 16 Malaysia Day themes of Sehati Sejiwa, which is to reflect the spirit of solidarity and togetherness.

As such, the Gelang Patah MP said today's Cabinet meeting is crucial to set resolve the numerous problems plaguing the country.

"The Cabinet must end the drift afflicting the country in the past two months and come up with a new blueprint to initiate a virtuous cycle of development to restore confidence by focusing on the issues of transparency, integrity and good governance.

"Is the Cabinet capable of rising up to this challenge?" he added. – September 9, 2015.

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