

Failure to charge PPS members after two months shows they are being persecuted, says Guan Eng
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Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng has challenged the Attorney-General to charge members of the state's Voluntary Patrol Unit (PPS) who were arrested on Merdeka Day, saying the failure to do so meant that the action taken against them thus far had no basis at all.

"If they have done wrong, charge them," Lim said today.

"Do not persecute people who are not guilty and make false accusations against them."

The 157 members were informed yesterday that their police bail would be extended for a month for the second time after it were first extended on September 30. Seri Delima assemblyman R.S.N. Rayer, who was among those arrested on August 31 before being released on bail, told reporters yesterday that the police had informed them that the investigation papers were still with the Attorney-General's Chambers and no decision had yet been made on charging them.

The members were arrested after taking part in the state-level Merdeka Day parade at Padang Kota Lama in George Town on August 31.

Lim said the absence of any charges two months after the incident indicated that the Attorney-General had no concrete proof when the PPS members were arrested.

"It clearly shows that the move to arrest them after they had participated in the Merdeka Day parade had no basis at all," he told a press conference at his office in George Town.

Lim said that the Registrar of Societies had not declared PPS illegal but only stated that PPS was not registered with it.

He said the state government would stand firm on its assertion that the unit was legal and legitimate as it was instituted as a body under the state itself.

He said PPS had performed its duty by assisting the police in public security and rendering aid during emergencies and disasters.

Asked about the course of action the state would now take, Lim said they were waiting

to see what happens when the current bail extension expires on December 1.

He said it was ironic that political parties were allowed to have their own security units, but the state government was being denied the right to do so.

He added that the RoS had collected documentation on PPS from the state after the arrests.

He said this was like "putting the cart before the horse" as it was gathering information on the unit only after its members were arrested.

Those arrested included state executive councillor and PPS commander Phee Boon Poh whose bail was extended today, Tanjung MP and the unit's deputy commander Ng Wei Aik and Rayer himself.

Police said they were all investigated under the Societies Act 1966 for alleged involvement in an unlawful society. – October 30, 2014.

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