

PKR: Najib wrong in not condemning assault on David Teo
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Padang Serai MP N Surendran urges IGP to open investigation into criminal act which occurred at a forum in the presence of prime minister.

PETALING JAYA: A PKR lawmaker criticised Prime Minister Najib Razak's lack of condemnation for an assault which occurred in front of him and also disrupted the TN50 dialogue in Seri Perdana yesterday.

Referring to the physical attack by actor-comedian Sulaiman Yassin against TV and film director David Teo, Padang Serai MP N Surendran said it was shocking that Najib did not make any immediate statement at the forum to express his disapproval on the matter.

"It is shocking and unacceptable that the Prime Minister of Malaysia, having witnessed at close quarters this act of criminal violence, said nothing to condemn or disapprove of the assault to the audience present.

"At the time of the assault, Teo was holding a microphone and merely trying to ask a question to the PM from the floor," Surendran said.

What shocked the PKR vice-president further was the nonchalance with which Najib wanted the event to proceed just after the incident.

"Najib can be heard saying in the aftermath of this violent assault, 'shift it to somebody else'," Surendran said.

He also took the prime minister to task for asking Teo and his attacker to shake hands to resolve the matter.

"When a criminal act has taken place, neither the PM nor anyone else has any business trying to settle the matter between them.

"The police must investigate and the law must take its course. Failure to take action or trying to 'settle' between the parties is tantamount to condoning criminal violence and public hooliganism," Surendran said.

He also reminded that any form of assault or mob justice is illegal in Malaysia, and that it did not matter if someone was rude, as there was no justification for a physical assault.

“The attacker has, in full view of TV cameras, committed criminal offences for which he can be charged under Sections 351 and 321 of the Penal Code. These offences are respectively, assault and voluntarily causing hurt.”

Surendran also urged the Inspector-General of Police to direct an immediate investigation into the incident, especially because the identity of the perpetrator can clearly be established from the video recordings of the incident.

“At all costs, the rule of law must be upheld.”

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