

Does our vote mean nothing, taxi drivers ask BN

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Taxi drivers' association chief says only opposition party leaders have shown any interest for their welfare and attended demonstrations.

PETALING JAYA: A taxi drivers' association has hit out at Barisan Nasional (BN) politicians for not speaking up for the welfare of taxi drivers and the concerns they have, questioning if the ruling government wants their votes.

Klang Valley Taxi Association chairman Zailani Isa Usuludin said not a single BN politician had shown any interest over the welfare of taxi drivers in the country.

"No BN politician has approached us and asked about the plight of taxi drivers.

"Instead, only opposition party leaders have shown any interest and were present during our demonstrations," Zailani said today at an assembly by the Malaysia Taxi Drivers Congress held at the Civic Centre in Petaling Jaya today.

Zailani questioned whether taxi drivers' votes are of no use to BN anymore.

"There are over 80,000 taxi drivers in Malaysia currently, and if you include taxi drivers' families, there are over 300,000 votes that we will cast in the next general election.

"So, why are they (BN) ignoring us? Do our votes mean nothing to them?" he said.

Representatives from 600 taxi driver associations attended the assembly, which involved members from every state, except Sabah and Sarawak.

Meanwhile, Zailani also urged all taxi associations to unite and create a single organisation through which taxi drivers' concerns can be channelled to the authorities.

"There are a lot of taxi associations in Malaysia. We are hoping that all can work under one roof," he said.

In March, taxi operators and drivers gathered to protest against the Uber and Grab e-hailing services in front of the Parliament building after submitting three memorandums.

Approximately 200 drivers came and protested, occupying the pedestrian path on the left and right side of the bridge leading to the Parliament building main gate.

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