

Kisah Sebenar

9 July 2011

What Really Happened

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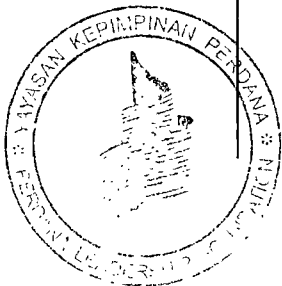
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*Buku ini didedikasikan kepada Allahyarahm Baharuddin Ahmad,
yang mengorbankan segalanya demi Malaysia.
Kepada keluarga beliau: kami akan sentiasa bersama anda.*

*This book is dedicated to Allahyarham Baharuddin Ahmad,
who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country,
and in pursuit of a better Malaysia.
To his family: you will never walk alone.*

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Foreword

It is not possible for me to speak about Bersih 2.0 without an overwhelming sense of pride in the bravery of the rakyat.

There is of course also a sense of sadness over the wholly avoidable loss of our supporter, Allahyarham Baharuddin Ahmad and the baseless incarceration of our friends, the EO6 (the six Parti Sosialis Malaysia leaders – Dr. Michael Jeyakumar, M. Sarasvathy, Choo Chon Kai, M. Sukumaran, R. Saratbabu and A. Letchumanan) who were detained without charge for a month under the Emergency Ordinance.

That people had to suffer for our simple message of truth and justice to emerge is tragic; but the greatest tragedy of all is in the continuing efforts of the authorities to defend the indefensible repression of Bersih 2.0. Repression is not a sign of strength, rather it is a sign of weakness and an inability to respond reasonably to the aspirations of the rakyat.

The Bersih 2.0 stories have been told and must be told. I salute those who wrote them openly, fearing nothing, and I wish to thank the team of young volunteers who assisted in putting this book together. Having been arrested before being able to reach the city centre, I only managed to read those stories and watch the videos on the night of July 9th, after I was released. For me, watching the immense courage shown by so many ordinary Malaysians was a moving and humbling experience. They were all there for our children, for our future, for our Malaysia.

Months later, our spirit and firm resolve as a rakyat united for clean and fair elections is not diluted in the least. We have made a point to the authorities that intimidatory tactics will never work again. More importantly, we have made a point to ourselves that we have it in us to overcome the odds to bring meaningful change.

We saw the spirit of Bersih 2.0 move so many Malaysians on the 9th of July. More importantly we see it move Malaysians, almost on a daily basis, to expose electoral fraud and other weaknesses in the system. Something has happened in Malaysia. Something wonderful! This book says it all.

Ambiga Sreenevasan
August 2011

Kata Pengantar

Mustahil saya bincangkan Bersih 2.0 tanpa perasaan bangga dengan keberanian rakyat Malaysia.

Tentunya, ada juga perasaan sedih atas pemergian penyokong kita Allahyarham Baharuddin Ahmad, yang sebenarnya boleh dielakkan; serta penahanan kawan kita, EO6 (enam pemimpin Parti Sosialis Malaysia - Dr. Michael Jeyakumar, M. Sarasvathy, Choo Chon Kai, M. Sukumaran, R. Saratbabu dan A. Letchumanan) yang ditahan tanpa bicara selama sebulan oleh polis di bawah Ordinan Darurat (EO) - penahanan yang memang tidak berasas langsung.

Rakyat sepatutnya tidak harus menderita demi perjuangan kita untuk menegakkan kebenaran dan keadilan; malangnya, pihak berkuasa masih cuba mempertahankan penindasan Bersih 2.0. Penindasan bukannya tanda kekuatan, tetapi tanda kelemahan dan kegagalan kerajaan bersikap prihatin dan wajar terhadap aspirasi rakyat.

Cerita-cerita Bersih 2.0 telah dikongsi dan mesti terus dikongsi. Saya menghargai usaha mereka yang telah menulisnya secara terbuka, tanpa rasa takut, dan saya juga ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada pasukan relawan muda yang berjaya menghasilkan buku ini. Oleh kerana saya ditahan polis sebelum tiba di pusat bandar, saya hanya dapat membaca cerita-cerita ini dan menyaksikan video-video pada malam 9 Julai, selepas saya dilepaskan. Bagi saya, menyaksikan keberanian luar biasa yang ditunjukkan oleh rakyat akar umbi amat mengagumkan. Mereka semua bangkit demi anak kita, masa depan kita, dan Malaysia kita.

Berbulan kemudian, semangat dan azam kita sebagai rakyat yang bersatu demi menuntut pilihanraya yang Bersih dan adil tidak luntur sama sekali. Kita telah buktikan kepada pihak berkuasa bahawa usaha untuk menakutkan kita tidak akan berjaya. Lebih penting lagi, kita telah membuktikan kepada diri sendiri bahawa kita berupaya mengatasi sebarang halangan atau rintangan untuk membawa perubahan yang bermakna.

Sejak 9 Julai, kita nampak semangat Bersih 2.0 mengerakkan hati kita sebagai rakyat Malaysia untuk terus mendedahkan penipuan dalam pilihanraya dan sebarang kelemahan dalam sistem yang sedia ada. Sesuatu telah dizahirkan di Malaysia, sesuatu yang hebat! Bacalah ceritanya dalam muka-muka surat seterusnya.

Ambiga Sreenevasan
Ogos 2011