

Rally ends with burning of placard

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KOTA KINABALU: The two-day Gempur Rasuah 2.0 rally, organized by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students, concluded controversially on Sunday when protesters burned a large placard, featuring a caricature of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, at Lintasan Deasoka near Gaya Street on Sunday morning.

The banner also carried the phrase "Madani Protector of Sabah Corruption".

Suara Mahasiswa UMS president Muhamad Fadhil Muhamad Kasim said the symbolic burning of a caricature of the Prime Minister was done in an orderly and safe manner.

In a statement on Sunday, he said the secretariat had ensured an appropriate radius between the position of the symbolic burning and the audience who witnessed the historic moment.

After the burning, he said they cleaned the area with soap and brooms, collected surrounding garbage and ensured the location was clean enough before leaving.

"The biggest message of this gathering is to strongly criticize the hypocritical leadership of Madani against institutional reform and the promise to eradicate corruption."

"Recently, Anwar Ibrahim announced a challenge to the youth to fight corruption."

"Today is proof that students with full idealism and courage have taken up the challenge

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Muhamad Fadhil Muhamad Kasim

to fight corruption in Sabah," Muhamad Fadhil said.

Kota Kinabalu police confirmed an investigation is pending and will issue a statement on Monday.

Parti Warisan has denied involvement in the rally.

Meanwhile, independent youth group Mandiri has criticised the police for allegedly failing to facilitate the anti-corruption rally on June 21.

Mandiri coordinator Wong KuKui said the group was made to understand that police officers present during the peaceful assembly did not fulfil their responsibilities, despite having received prior notice of the event.

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The burning of a caricature of the Prime Minister during the anti-corruption rally at Lintasan Deasoka on Sunday morning.