

06/01/2001

GPMS rally will now be a `unity gathering'

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Federation of Peninsular Malaysia Malay Students (GPMS), in welcoming Suqiu's move to set aside part of its appeal, will now turn its rally in Kuala Terengganu tomorrow into a "unity gathering."

GPMS president Datuk Suhaimi Ibrahim (above) said the gathering tomorrow would continue as it was "too late to cancel".

However, the mass rally at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil would no longer be held. GPMS had initially planned the rally to protest Suqiu's 83-point appeal and had set a Jan 14 deadline for the withdrawal of the appeals.

"We thank Suqiu for making this move in the interest of national unity," he said while on his way to Terengganu this evening.

"Suqiu has seen fit to ensure that the future is one of harmony and to abide by the nation's social contract."

Tomorrow's gathering at the Komplek Belia dan Sukan in Kuala Terengganu was originally meant to protest the appeals.

"We will just change our topic. We had intended to discuss Suqiu's appeals but now that they have withdrawn the seven appeals, we will no longer protest.

"We will instead explain to GPMS members our plans following this development. We will make national unity the top priority on our agenda."

On the 100-point appeal, he said it would be kept as part of GPMS' archives as a "historical reminder".

"There will be no more need to raise those appeals," Suhaimi said.

"We hope all prejudices can be erased and that all races will focus on staying united."

He praised Suqiu for heeding the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for all parties to stop talking about Malay rights.

(END)