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Rally-Sabotage

MALAYS RIGHTS RALLY IS ON DESPITE SABOTAGE ATTEMPTS, SAYS ORGANISERS

KUALA TERENGGANU, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- A public rally to protest against a Chinese pressure group's petition to abolish Malay special rights will be held here on Saturday as planned despite what the organisers claimed as attempts to sabotage the gathering.

Syed Anuar Syed Mohamad, the secretary-general of GPMS or the Federation of Peninsular Malay Students, said the assembly, starting at 9.30am, would now be held at the youth and sports complex in Pasir Panjang instead of Sekolah Kebangsaan Sultan Sulaiman, the original venue.

"We've obtained a police permit last Tuesday and shall proceed with the rally despite certain quarters wanting to sabotage us," Syed Anuar told a news conference here today.

Terengganu is the first state to organise a public rally to protest against the petition by Suqiu or the Malaysian Chinese Organisation's Election Appeals Committee on Malay special rights and privileges.

Syed Anuar said that so far more than 4,000 people representing 40 non-governmental organisations have confirmed participation in the Saturday gathering.

He said Umno would also take part in the rally here but PAS and Keadilan have yet to respond to the GPMS invitation to the gathering.

Syed Anuar said the next round of the rally would be held in Melaka on Jan 14, in Penang the next day and to be followed by the other states later.

He gave the assurance that the gathering would be orderly as it would not involve any procession. GPMS president Datuk Shuhaimi Ibrahim is scheduled to address the rally.

For details, intending participants can access the GPMS web site at <http://www.geocities.com/gpms2001/gpms.html> or telephone 012-9879482.

Syed Anuar also said GPMS would also consult 30 personalities in the various fields to fine-tune its 100-point demand to be forwarded to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad later.

The 100-point demand would represent GPMS' counter petition to Suqiu's.

-- BERNAMA

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