

July 9: Perkasa will soldier on... if Bersih does
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Malay rights group Perkasa chief Ibrahim Ali said his organisation will go ahead with its counter-march against the Bersih 2.0 rally on Saturday if the NGO coalition does not back down.

Perkasa will make its final decision on the matter when its executive committee meets on Wednesday, he told a press conference today.

"That is just my personal view as Perkasa president," he said.

"We will see what Bersih does. If Bersih plans to do this, we will do the same. If Bersih does another thing, we will follow suit."

The 40-member Perkasa committee will decide on related matters such as obtaining a police permit and designating meeting points for its rally.

'Uncouth move'

'However, he said this does not mean Perkasa will not heed the Agong's advice to all parties to engage in dialogue rather than take to the streets.

He said Perkasa only wants to ensure the nation's security and to see that the country's reputation is not affected as a result of the Bersih 2.0 rally.

Asked to comment on Bersih 2.0 chairperson Ambiga Sreenevasan's statement that the coalition wants an audience with the Agong, Ibrahim said such a move is not in accordance with Malay culture.

"If some other party wants to protest and the Agong says 'No', they (too will) seek an audience This is an illegal gathering and we should not reduce the status of the Agong," said Ibrahim, describing Ambiga's action as "uncouth".

He added that Perkasa does not intend to ask for an audience with the Agong.