

Bersih agenda to colour Dataran Merdeka countdown
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Twenty-six NGOs will hold an alternative Merdeka Day countdown celebration at Dataran Merdeka to remind the federal government of its unfulfilled promises in ensuring free and fair elections.

Bersih steering committee head A Samad Said said the event - dubbed the Janji Bersih (Clean Promises) gathering - will require participants to don yellow to symbolise their struggle for free and fair elections.

However, Samad stressed that the event is not organised under the name of Bersih because only 26 NGOs out of more than 80 have endorsed this event. Others groups are expected to join in soon.

The Janji Bersih theme is an obvious play on the federal government's Janji Ditepati (Promises Fulfilled) Merdeka Day theme, which has been ridiculed as pro-BN propaganda.

"All these while, we have been hearing 'promises' for this upcoming Merdeka celebration. We know what everyone wants a cleaner and fairer Malaysia in the 55th Merdeka Day celebrations.

"To celebrate the theme Janji Bersih, we call upon all Malaysians of all races from all corners of Malaysia, both young and old to wear yellow at that very night," said Samad at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur.

The event will kick off at 10pm, around the fountain located at the north-most point of Dataran Merdeka, adjacent to the field where the federal government sponsored countdown will take place.

[More to follow]