

KL 'Black 505': Pakatan wants Dataran Merdeka but ...

MalaysiaKini.com

June 5, 2013

By Aidila Razak

Pakatan Rakyat will write to Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) and the police today to state their intention to hold the Kuala Lumpur leg of the 'Black 505' rally at Padang Merbok on June 15.

PKR strategy director Rafizi Ramli said, however, the coalition's first choice for the 2pm rally would be the iconic Dataran Merdeka, about a kilometre away.

"Our wish and intention is to hold the rally at Dataran, but we take heed of the constant reminders by the police to avoid Dataran," he told a press conference today.

"In a mutually beneficial move, we take this initiative. But if the police and DBKL do not mind, we would like to assemble at Dataran."

He said Pakatan is choosing Padang Merbok for now to avoid going "back and forth" in negotiations, which could lead to delay.

The Peaceful Assembly Act 2012 requires that authorities be informed 10 days in advance of any gathering, and that written permission is obtained from venue owners.

Padang Merbok is managed by DBKL.

Rafizi reiterated that the rally is to demand the resignation of the Election Commission, as well as reinstatement of an interim panel that is agreed upon by the BN, Pakatan and civil society groups like Bersih to spearhead electoral reform.

"The time when the BN decides on its own is over. We can discuss terms of reference for the appointment of a new EC, but (there will be) no compromise unless all members resign immediately," he said.

He said the rally will also demand that a re-election be called in 30 parliamentary constituencies, under the watch of the proposed interim EC.

It will further demand that amendments to electoral laws and the intended redelineation exercise is halted until the interim panel is in place.

"We are apprehensive about (Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's) announcement that the EC will be under a parliamentary select committee (PSC), as this is nothing but a delay tactic.

"We have been down this path (before) ... the PSC is made of a majority of BN members, and there will be delays, and further delays."

'PAS leaders, members will be there'

Also at the press conference was PAS deputy secretary-general Syed Azman Syed Nawawi, who refuted claims that the party is not behind the 'Black 505' rallies nationwide.

He said that the entire PAS top leadership will be present at the KL rally and that the party will mobilise members and supporters to attend as well.

NONEPKR's Sungai Petani MP Johari Abdul said the event will take on a "festive" mood and will be "safe and non-confrontational" just like the many 'Black 505' rallies held since May 8.

"There have been many young people who come in a respectful and orderly manner, and this is encouraging as it shows that the nation is maturing fast," he said.

Prior to the Kuala Lumpur event, Black 505 rallies will be held in Perlis on June 10, in Sungai Petani, Kedah, on June 11 and in Batu Pahat, Johor, on June 14.

"We are inviting everyone, whether party members or not and including BN members, to come and listen as this is part of political education," he added.

Copyright © 1999-2012 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd
Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/232083>