

Black 505 venue talks with DBKL at a stalemate

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By Abdul Rahim Sabri

The organisers of the 'Black 505' rally and the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) failed to come to agreement today on their dispute over the venue for the event to protest the results of the May 5 general election.

Speaking to reporters after meeting city mayor Ahmad Phesal Talib this morning, PKR director of strategy Rafizi Ramli said that as such, Pakatan Rakyat will go ahead with the June 22 rally at Padang Merbok.

azlanRafizi, who is also Pandan MP, said the 'Black 505' rally would take place despite prior booking by the Olympic Council of Malaysia as DBKL's reason for rejecting the PKR application to use the site.

"There is no change of location so far. The meeting was cordial, but both parties did not budge. We will still gather at Padang Merbok.

"We will discuss (their proposals but) the situation is at status quo. We will provide an update accordingly, but I am hoping there will not be too many changes," Rafizi said.

He said DBKL, during the hour-long meeting, had offered Stadium Merdeka and Stadium Titiwangsa as alternative venues for the rally.

However, Rafizi - who has been tasked with organising the event - said that he could not unilaterally decide on this without consent of the Pakatan leaders and the other NGOs involved.

Others who attended the meeting were PKR's Sungai Petani MP Johari Abdul, DAP's Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lun and Dang Wangi district police chief Zainuddin Ahmad.

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