

## **PKR Youth trio charged under Peaceful Assembly Act**

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**By Tharshinaa Chandran**

Three PKR Youth leaders were today charged under the Peaceful Assembly Act for gathering at the Ar-Rahman mosque near Universiti Malaya on June 22.

The trio, Nazree Mohd Yunus, 29, Shamsul Iskandar Md Akin, 38, and Khairul Anuar Ahmad Zainuddin, 36, were charged at the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court.

They were charged under Section 4 (2) (b) of the Act, which is related to gathering in a restricted area.

All three pleaded not guilty and were allowed bail and personal bond of RM2,000.

Sessions Court Judge Mat Ghani Abdullah fixed Sept 23 for case management while the trial would commence on Dec 11.

Masjid Ar-Rahman was on of the seven gathering points leading to Padang Merbok during Pakatan Rakyat's "Black 505 Rally".

NONETo date, 43 people have been charged for attending a series of "Black Rallies".

Defence lawyer Yusmadi Yusof argued that there was a difference between assembling at a mosque and and attending the Black Rally, which was also held that day, and asked for the bail to be lowered to RM1,000.

"There is a difference when someone assembles at Padang Merbok and when someone assembles at a mosque.

"The closest intention would be to pray. Before this, PKR director of strategy Rafizi (Ramli) and (Seremban MP) Anthony Loke were charged for attending the rally.

"This gives a wrong message that those who attended the rally and those who came to pray will be similarly prosecuted," he said.

Judge Mat Ghani, however, maintained that bail be set at RM2,000.

Counsel A Jeyaseelen said his clients were considering filing an application to seek a declaration that the restricted area went against the federal constitution.

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