

More condemn Gertak's May 13 rally
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More people across the political divide have come out to slam the mammoth gathering poised to be held on May 13.

NONEUmno youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar (right) said on Twitter that he thinks the May 13 rally is "inappropriate and a symptom of the siege mentality".

"Young Malaysians must exorcise the ghost of May 13 once and for all," he tweeted.

DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang also condemned the rally, calling it "insensitive, extremist, incendiary, and a total mockery of the inclusive 1Malaysia slogan".

Meanwhile, MIC also said that the event will only create tension.

"Whilst we respect freedom of expression and right to peaceful assembly, a gathering of this nature will set our country back to the 1960s," secretary-general S Murugesan (below) said in a statement.

MIC secretary general interview s murugesan 170909 01 "If the organisers' main aim is unity, then it should include NGOs from all races. Having a gathering comprising of only one race in the shadows of May 13 will only polarise race relations in Malaysia."

The PAS youth leader Nasruddin Hassan called for the government to put a stop to the rally, aimed at gathering 10,000 Malays and 45 Malay rights NGO under one roof.

"I urge the public not to attend the function. This event will just put the nation backwards, and bring back nightmares to those who have actually survived the May 13 incident," he told Malaysiakini.

He also questioned the timing of the rally, which is set to coincide with the 41st anniversary of the racial riots which turned into a bloodshed, leaving hundreds dead.

"Even if they want to talk about empowering the Malay race, they should be aware of the sensitivities surrounding the date.

"We all may have different ideologies and political leanings, but racist gestures like these should be avoided," he said.

The Selangor PKR Youth have also charged at the rally, saying that it only brings discomfort and should be rejected instead of being brought up repeatedly to cow the people into fear.

It was previously reported that the rally, called "Melayu Bangkit" (Malays Rise), is organised by a loose coalition of Malay rights NGO named Gerakan Kebangkitan Rakyat (Gertak). It will be held tomorrow morning at the Gong Badak Indoor Stadium in Kuala Terengganu.

NONEFormer Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad (left) is also expected to deliver a keynote address in the rally.

The rally, will also be organised with the cooperation of the Terengganu Integrity Institute.

The Integrity Institute of Malaysia (IIM) have distanced themselves from the function, saying that they have nothing to do with the institute in Terengganu, and that it comes under the direct control of the state government.

Gertak chairperson Razali Idris had previously told Malaysiakini that the rally is simply meant to bring awareness to the Malay race, to do whatever they can to prevent a reoccurrence of the May 13 blood bath.

He also said that it would be a peaceful gathering, and that the rally is not meant to provoke or scare any races.

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