

**Stopping Bersih July 9 Rally Apt, Says PM**  
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KUALA LUMPUR -- Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said the government's decision to stop the July 9 illegal rally by Bersih was apt in preventing worse incidents from happening on that day.

He said the move was made as there was no guarantee that all the rally participants would demonstrate peacefully.

"What the government did with regard to the Bersih illegal rally was to avoid any incident that could lead to rioting.

"Perhaps there would be those with bad intentions trying to take advantage of the rally by creating trouble.

"When a large-scale street demonstration is held, rioting, breaking into shops, assaults and counter-assaults may take place," he told a news conference after chairing a Barisan Nasional supreme council meeting, here, on Friday.

Najib noted the rioting and looting in London and several other English cities like Wolverhampton, the seriousness of which were unexpected.

The prime minister also voiced regret that the government's offer for the Bersih rally to be held at a stadium in Shah Alam was rejected by the organisers even though the offer was never withdrawn.

Najib thanked the police for managing to control the situation on July 9 to the extent that it did not cause any loss of life or damage to public property.

(Bernama)