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Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** arriving for the annual assembly of the Malaysian National Silat Federation (Pesaka) at Dataran Merdeka yesterday. Pic by Sairien Nafis

Silat folk vow loyalty to PM

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OATH: Over 15,000 declare support for govt, Najib at Dataran Merdeka

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MORE than 15,000 silat exponents under the Malaysian National Silat Federation (Pesaka) declared their loyalty and support for the government and Prime Minister Datuk Seri

Najib Razak in their annual assembly at Dataran Merdeka last night.

The exponents took an oath of loyalty led by Pesaka president Tan Sri MohdAliRustam.

Najib, when officiating the event, announced the government's decision to declare silat as the country's official martial art.

He congratulated Pesaka for organising the Red-Shirt rally on Wednesday and lauded its members for abiding by the law and assembling peacefully.

"This shows that when Malays have been pushed too far and their honour challenged, they, too, can go to the streets and demonstrate, but they will do so respectfully and in

accordance with the law. They did not stomp on pictures of opposition leaders.

"They (Bersih) did it once, twice, three times, but Malays did not respond. But when they did it four times, Malays responded, but they did it in accordance with the law. It was legal. They went out onto the streets for Bersih 4.0 as if Kuala Lumpur belonged to them. But they should not think that the government does not have support.

"Those from outside and inside can try whatever they want... spread *fitnah* (lies), be it the Sarawak Report or that person behind bars in Bangkok," Najib said, alluding to former PetroSaudi executive Xavier

AndreJusto.

"Pitnah in Islam is a greater sin than murder. But they will continue to do so because they want to split Malays."

Present were cultural adviser to the government Tan Sri Rais Yatim and Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan.

Ali said efforts to overthrow the government through street demonstrations should stop and the opposition supporters should instead use democratic means via the ballot box in the next general election.

Pesaka organised the Red-Shirt rally at Padang Merbok on Wednesday, which attracted 50,000 people.

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