

**Himpun Is An Example Of An Assembly Desired By Government - Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Gathering of One Million Muslims (Himpun) aimed at preserving the faiths of Muslims yesterday is an example of a peaceful assembly desired by the government.

The Prime Minister said the gathering held in Shah Alam was in stark contrast to the chaos that occurred during the Bersih 2.0 gathering held in July.

"The gathering yesterday was peaceful and under control, no one felt threatened or unsafe.

"That was what the government wanted when we offered the stadium for Bersih 2.0 to hold their gathering," he told reporters after attending a gathering with Police retirees and ex-policemen at the Putra World Trade Centre, here Sunday.

Najib said the peaceful gathering also reflected the government's aspiration in amending Section 27 of the Police Act to allow peaceful assemblies to be held.

"We will study what happened yesterday and look at the norms in the other countries. The Inspector-General of Police and the Home Ministry are looking into the matter and we will formulate what is best, one that suits the practice of a country that adopts a modern and progressive democracy," Najib said.

He said this was necessary to achieve a balance between human rights and public interests in terms of peace and public order.

Commenting on a resolution presented by the gathering to seek for the formulation of a special law to prevent apostasy and Muslims denouncing their faith in the country, Najib said that matters concerning religion were under the jurisdiction of the state government.

"I believe if the act is necessary, the state would study the demand and take appropriate measures," he said.

The demand was among the 10 resolutions passed by the gathering, besides ensuring concrete preventive laws to protect the sanctity of Islam in the Constitution.

On the suspension of International Islamic University law lecturer prof Dr Abdul Aziz Bari from duty, Najib said there was a public misperception on the action taken by the university against its lecturer.

"It does not involve disciplinary action yet, only an investigation to find out what he had meant...don't pre-empt," Najib said.

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