

PKR delegates reject assembly Bill
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JOHOR BARU, Nov 27 — PKR unanimously resolved today to reject the Peaceful Assembly Bill despite Putrajaya promising seven changes to the proposed law that has come under heavy criticism since being tabled on Tuesday.

“We reject the amendments to this law of the jungle,” PKR Youth chief Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin (picture, second left) said to loud cheers from nearly 2,000 delegates.

Pakatan Rakyat (PR) lawmakers were quick to reject the Cabinet’s decision to tweak its much criticised assembly law after Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz said yesterday seven changes would be made.

The federal Opposition demanded the Bill be withdrawn from Parliament instead, pending public consultation.

De facto law minister Nazri said that the changes included changing the 30-day notice requirement for an assembly to just 10 days.

The provision has been criticised by civil society groups and Opposition lawmakers as restrictive, particularly after Myanmar, a country known for its poor human rights record, passed a similar law earlier this week stipulating that only five days’ notice is required to hold a protest.

Another proposed amendment is that the police must inform assembly organisers of its decision within 24 hours of receiving notice, instead of 48 hours as stipulated under Section 12(1) of the Bill.

The Peaceful Assembly Bill was mooted by the Najib administration as part of its Malaysia Day promises to allow greater democracy and civil liberties in the country.

Parliament is scheduled to debate the Bill on Tuesday.

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