

**Police Allow Gathering Based On Peaceful Assembly Act - Muhyiddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the decision of the police to allow opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's supporters to stage a gathering on Monday was based on the Peaceful Assembly Act passed by Parliament recently.

Thus, he has left it to the police to manage and ensure that the assembly would proceed peacefully.

He said the organisers of the gathering was also responsible for ensuring that the gathering did not lead to chaos or pandemonium.

"This (gathering) is a power provided for by Parliament, the act passed recently gives an opportunity to the general public to hold peaceful assemblies," he told reporters at the 1Malaysia People Friendly programme at Taman Bukit Maluri, Kepong here Friday.

Kuala Lumpur Police allowed Anwar's supporters to hold a gathering at the car park outside the grounds of the Courts Complex, Jalan Duta.

On the claim that Anwar had arranged for meetings with several ambassadors from Europe, believed to garner support in conjunction with the gathering, Muhyiddin said the government had also briefed certain embassies on the actual situation so that they would not be confused by the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) advisor.

"We already know, (this issue is) nothing new (in fact) even from before, from the reports that we hear, he goes abroad more often than the prime minister and he deals with various quarters abroad. Nevertheless, whatever Anwar wants to do is his own business.

"However, some of the people outside may sympathise with him but some know about the democratic process and the law applicable in Malaysia...they should respect whatever law we adopt in this country," he said.

On Anwar's aspiration to become prime minister even if he were imprisoned by creating an interim prime minister, Muhyiddin said: "This is an assumption, we cannot fall into the trap of his (Anwar's) assumptions, we are rational, we cannot be emotional, or perhaps he has his own strategy.

"We should not fall into such a trap, we can't precede the court. We cannot assume what the verdict will be," he said.

The High Court will decide on Monday on the case on Anwar who was charged with sodomising his former personal assistant, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan, three years ago.

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