

Hisham offers four alternative venues for Bersih 3.0 rally

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PETALING JAYA: The Home Ministry has offered to the organisers of Bersih 3.0 rally four alternative venues apart from Dataran Merdeka.

"These venues are ones which the organisers had previously requested – the Cheras stadium, Titiwangsa Stadium, Bukit Jalil Stadium and Stadium Merdeka," said its minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein in a statement yesterday.

If they agreed to hold the rally at one of these venues, he said, the ministry would ensure that the organisers were treated fairly and that their gathering was not disturbed.

"The Ministry never rejected their application to gather. It is just that the City Hall does not approve of Dataran Merdeka as the venue," he said.

Hishammuddin added that the excuse given by the organisers that it was not possible to change the location at the last minute was illogical.

"I want to stress that there is still time for the organisers to sit down with us and discuss this in a rational manner," he said.

In Kota Baru, Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen said the ministry had not issued any directive to bus operators not to transport Bersih 3.0 supporters from Kuantan to Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.

It was reported that the Himpunan Hijau had accused the ministry of allegedly pressuring the tourist bus operators which led them to refuse to bring supporters to the rally.

In Kuala Lumpur, Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin said it was not right for Bersih organisers to claim that there were thousands of dubious voters on the electoral roll.

"These 'dubious voters' may just have moved to different locations or may not have updated their identification cards," he said during a debate titled *Spark the Debate* with Bersih 2.0 chairman Datuk S. Ambiga last night.

He added that he would "do his best" to ensure that Bersih would be able to meet with the Election Commission (EC) to discuss issues related to the electoral roll.

Earlier, during the debate organised by *The Malay Mail*, Ambiga had called for the general election to be delayed, claiming there were discrepancies in the electoral roll.

To a suggestion by Khairy, Ambiga agreed to the forming of an independent body to sit down with the EC and discuss election issues that have yet to be settled.

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