

Mayor: Stay out of Dataran Merdeka
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By ZUHRIN AZAM AHMAD

KUALA LUMPUR: KL mayor Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail said Dataran Merdeka and all roads leading to it would be closed from 6am today to 6am on Sunday.

In a statement yesterday, he added that no gathering would be allowed at the square without his written consent.

In Putrajaya, meanwhile, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said the police have been instructed to handle the planned Bersih 3.0 rally tomorrow in the context of security should the organisers be adamant in using Dataran Merdeka as the venue.

He said the police needed to assess how a rally at Dataran Merdeka would affect security.

"I have asked them to look at the possibility of this thing not going to Stadium Merdeka and proceeding to Dataran Merdeka.

"If they do continue to go to the street and Dataran Merdeka, that is an issue for the police to look into," he said here yesterday.

Hishammuddin said the issue was not whether the Government wanted to stop the rally.

"It is just the location. We have offered the alternative venues ... better venues.

"I think it is quite unreasonable for them to refuse the alternative venues which come with the assurance that they will go (there) in an orderly, speedy and safer (manner)," he said, referring to the offers of Cheras Stadium, Titiwangsa Stadium, Bukit Jalil Stadium and Stadium Merdeka.

Hishammuddin said the organisers still had time to accept the offer.

"We are giving them the room and if they proceed (with having the rally at Dataran Merdeka), that is nothing new to the police as it has happened before.

"We are still looking for ways for them to accept (one of) the stadiums that have been offered to them," he said.

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