

Hisham: DBKL should give alternatives, perhaps Stadium Merdeka for Bersih 3.0
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 22 — The Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) should offer alternative venues for Bersih 3.0 if it does not want the rally to be held at Dataran Merdeka, the Home Minister said today, adding Stadium Merdeka could also be the protest site.

Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein (picture) stressed that the electoral reforms group should be allowed to have a “peaceful assembly” and that the government has already stated that it would not be a “security threat”, a far cry from the government’s attitude in locking down the capital city at the last rally.

“They (DBKL) have not allowed Dataran Merdeka but I’m sure they will allow to have an assembly and I believe DBKL should and will offer other alternatives on (any) land that they have jurisdiction,” he told reporters here.

“We all agree we’re not going to stop a peaceful assembly, but it’s not for me to say where DBKL is comfortable in giving,” Hishammuddin said.

The Home Minister said he was even willing to “assist” Bersih in securing either Stadium Merdeka or Stadium Bukit Jalil as alternative venue sites for the April 28 rally.

“I also have indicated I am for anyone having peaceful assembly, don’t look at it as a security threat, and places like Bukit Jalil or Stadium Merdeka if required (can be done) I will check with relevant boards.

“I can assist including (obtaining) Stadium Merdeka which is (what) the organisers asked for the last time,” said Hishammuddin, referring the Bersih’s demands during last year’s July 9 rally.

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