

PM: Stadium venue too peaceful for Bersih 3.0 organisers
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ROMPIN: The Bersih 3.0 rally organisers refused to take up the stadium offer because it was too peaceful for them, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said nothing would have happened if the April 28 rally had been held in a stadium and this would mean the organisers would not get to appear on international news networks.

"If everyone just sat down peacefully and listened to speeches, it will be no fun. In their heads, they needed to find ways to cause havoc between the protesters and the police," said Najib at a meet-the-people session here Sunday.

He added that some of the protesters were no different than monkeys in that they lost all sense of reason.

"How can they attack the police? The police are our friends and they have sacrificed a lot to help us," he said.

However, Najib said he was not blaming all protesters at the rally as he understood that some of them had come to assemble peacefully.

"We practise an open democracy. This means anyone, including the Opposition, can assemble in public as long as they respect the law," he said.

Meanwhile, in MALACCA, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein promised an impartial investigation by the proposed independent panel over claims that agent provocateurs had deliberately triggered violence during the rally, reports **R.S.N.MURALI**.

He said panel members would be asked to perform their responsibilities without any prejudice and with extreme transparency.

"We want the panel to identify the culprits, regardless of whether the agent provocateurs were police officers or members of the public," he said after taking part in the motorcycle convoy programme in conjunction Umno's 66th anniversary celebrations at Masjid Tanah here.

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