

The Right To Gather Versus The Right To Freedom?

Bernama

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 27 (Bernama) -- Many people with business in the city tomorrow have rescheduled their activities.

Tuition centres, private colleges, clinics and business premises have postponed their routine activities scheduled for tomorrow, not wanting to take the risk of having to put up with a gathering planned for Dataran Merdeka despite the square being declared out of bounds by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

When a large gathering is held in an open area and orchestrated by political parties, there is no guarantee against damage to public property or the occurrence of mishaps.

Many people are asking how the Peaceful Assembly Act can safeguard the right to freedom of the public which they feel can be jeopardised by the gathering.

Is the non-governmental organisation backed by the opposition bent on testing the "bite" of the Peaceful Assembly Act by way of the gathering? The general public wants to know whether police powers to maintain public order have become restricted.

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