

**Merdeka Day Is No Stage For Political Clashes – Najib
Bernama
Aug 28, 2015**

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Merdeka Day (Malaysia's Independence Day) should not be made the stage for political clashes although there are differences in opinions or beliefs, says Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Referring to a rally that has been planned for the same time and place as the preparations for the Merdeka Day celebrations, the prime minister said the organisers of the rally should have chosen a time and place which would not lead to provocations.

"In a few more days, we will be celebrating the 58th Independence Day. It is a day when all the people will put aside their differences and celebrate together with feelings of patriotism and love for the country.

"Is it right that this rally be held at a time and place that is so close to our independence day? Think about it," he said in a radio broadcast which was uploaded on to the website www.najibrazak.com Friday.

He added that the people should realise there were many parties who should be shown respect and appreciation during the Merdeka Day celebrations.

He said this included the nation's heroes who had fought for independence, schools, logistic personnel and entire contingents of the parade who had worked hard to prepare for the Merdeka Day celebrations.

The police have outlawed the Bersih 4.0 rally planned for this weekend as it did not meet the conditions set.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall has disallowed the rally to be held in the city, especially at Dataran Merdeka.

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