

Padang Merbok A Sea Of Red During Rally
Bernama
Sept 16, 2015

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 16 (Bernama) -- Padang Merbok was a sea of red this afternoon as thousands gathered for the 'Himpunan Rakyat Bersatu' (United People's Gathering) featuring speeches in defence of the country's constitution and calling for respect for the rights of Bumiputeras and other races.

The event - spearheaded by the National Federation of Silat Associations (Pesaka) and supported by other non-governmental organisations - began at the field in central Kuala Lumpur at about 3 pm.

The mostly red-shirted participants had earlier assembled at a number of staging points around the capital like the Putra World Trade Centre, Federal Territory Mosque, National Mosque and the Craft Complex in Jalan Conlay before making their way to the field.

At the height of the rally, the field overflowed with people under the watchful eye of police personnel deployed to ensure peace and order.

In between speeches, the participants listened to recitation of poems and sang patriotic songs.

The rally-goers, who came from various states, also chanted slogans while holding up banners and placards.

The event came on the heels of the Bersih 4 rally on Aug 29 and 30 which organisers of today's gathering claimed had shown disrespect to Malay leaders.

Among the better known participants were Bera MP Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Pontian MP Datuk Ahmad Maslan, Mara chairman Tan Sri Annuar Musa, Pesaka president Tan Sri Ali Rustam, Perkasa leader Datuk Ibrahim Ali and Pekida president Jamaludin Yusof.

The crowd at Padang Merbok began to disperse at about 5.30 pm.

While the rally went on peacefully at the field, police had to deal with a group of stubborn participants who insisted on entering designated no-go areas like Bukit Bintang and Petaling Street. Water cannons were used to disperse them.

The rally organisers later disassociated themselves from those who caused trouble in Petaling Street.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1171879>