

MCMC to block websites promoting 'red shirt' rally if declared illegal, says minister

The Malaysian Insider

Sept 10, 2015

By Melati A. Jalil

Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak today said the Communication and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) will monitor and block any blogs or websites seen promoting the September 16 "red shirt" rally, if the gathering is declared illegal by the police.

Salleh, who is communication and multimedia minister, said the same principles applied when it came to illegal street rallies.

The Internet regulator body recently blocked websites that promoted, spread information and encouraged people to join the Bersih 4 rally on August 29 and August 30.

"We will monitor, as what (we did) during Bersih.

"But until today, there is no decision from the police and I was informed that they (the organisers) are still applying for the approval from the relevant authorities," he said at a function in Putrajaya today.

Salleh was asked if MCMC would take the same action against websites that promoted the "red shirt" rally in view of Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Noor Rashid Ibrahim's statement that police would not allow the gathering to take place due to security concerns.

"We will wait for the official announcement from the police.

"For us in MCMC, if the rally is considered illegal, we will take the take necessary action against blogs or websites that promote it."

Salleh said he was also informed that the organisers were in the midst of finding a different venue, taking note of Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar's advice yesterday not to hold the rally on the streets.

Khalid had said yesterday that police would summon the organisers and would not allow the rally to proceed.

Meanwhile, on seditious posters related to the rally, Salleh said MCMC was gathering information on the matter and would take the appropriate action.

The "red shirt" rally or "Himpunan Rakyat Bersatu" is a demonstration to "counter" the recent Bersih 4 rally, which had called for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's resignation over alleged financial scandals.

The "red shirt" gathering is also being held to express anger over footage of Bersih 4 participants stomping on pictures of Najib and PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

Supporters of the "red shirt" rally are expected to gather in Bukit Bintang for 12 hours, from noon of September 16, which is also Malaysia Day. – September 10, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/mcmc-to-block-websites-promoting-red-shirt-rally-if-declared-illegal-says-m>