

Najib, Zahid moved by peaceful 'red shirt' rally, says Umno leader
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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his deputy, Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, said today they were surprised and moved by the large show of support for the "red shirt" rally and the peaceful way it was carried out.

This was announced by Ketereh MP Tan Sri Annuar Musa in his speech at Padang Merbok, where he also announced the end of the rally, also known as the Himpunan Rakyat Bersatu.

"I just got a call from the prime minister, who sent his regards to all here.

"The prime minister and his deputy, who are now in Sabah, have expressed their shock at the number of people at this assembly that has gone on peacefully."

This is despite the fact that police were earlier forced to use water cannon to disperse some 1,000 unruly rally goers who attempted to breach the barricade into Petaling Street. There were also reports of several arrests.

The greetings from the top leaders of the country are in contrast with that of Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal, who have criticised the rally.

Muhyiddin had urged Malays not to celebrate Malaysia Day with a rally that was racist in nature while Shafie said that the rally has marred the celebration of an auspicious day.

When asked about the incident, Annuar later told reporters that those in Petaling Street were not part of the group and urged police to act against the mob.

"We are checking, when we check with our leaders, groups and security personnel, all of them are here. Who are the people there?"

Earlier, Annuar also declared the rally a success, claiming some 250,000 rally goers were present.

"All those gathered (at various meeting points) were making their way to Padang Merbok but unfortunately, could not make it but their spirit and strength is with us."
– September 16, 2015.

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