

**Umno not stopping members from joining 'red shirt' rally, says Zahid**  
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**By Yasmin Ramlan**

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today said the party will not prevent its members from taking part in a planned "red shirt" rally organised by a pro-Malay rights group, on September 16.

Zahid, who is also the deputy prime minister and home minister, said it is up to party members to decide if they want to take part in the protest, adding that Umno is not the organiser.

However, he did not deny that Umno is expected to receive an invitation to join it.

"It is organised by an NGO, and the NGO is likely to invite Umno.

"I think it all comes down to the individual rights of the members," he said when asked if Umno will be involved in the protest in a popular tourist destination, Jalan Bukit Bintang, in Kuala Lumpur.

The protest is said to counter the recent Bersih 4 rally and to express anger over footage of rally participants stomping on pictures Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

However, The Star Online reported today that PAS will not join the rally, saying it is not in line with the spirit of Malaysia Day.

Like Bersih 4, PAS said it has no plan to mobilise its members and supporters to join the rally.

Meanwhile, police have so far said the planned "red shirt" rally or Himpunan Rakyat Bersatu will not be allowed to take place due to safety concerns.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Noor Rashid Ibrahim yesterday said the organiser must first inform the police and get permission from the premises' owners. – September 8, 2015.

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