

# UMS protest to proceed today despite no police permit

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**KOTA KINABALU:** University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students will go ahead with their water shortage protest today despite not having a police permit.

Quoting the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Razarudin Husain from a statement published by an online portal on March 4 this year, the secretariat of the protest dubbed #KamiMahuAir noted that organisers of peaceful protests need to follow the rules and issue a five-day notice ahead of the event.

The #KamiMahuAir (#WeWantWater) secretariat sent our notice on June 6, in accordance with the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012 (Amendment 2019).

This rally will be organised

Federal Constitution, which affirms that every Malaysian citizen has the right to freedom of speech and expression, provided it does not address sensitive issues," read a statement from the secretariat on Thursday.

The statement also said that secretariat representatives were called in by the police on June 10, but no updates on the rally were provided.

"We find the statement by the Kota Kinabalu police chief, claiming they could not contact us, very confusing. They only contacted one of the two numbers included in our notice.

"In fact, his statement contradicts the IGP's remarks on the permit issue. As such, we will proceed with our plan to hold the peaceful rally," the statement

Kota Kinabalu District Police Chief ACP Kasim Muda on Wednesday said police have not issued any permit for the protest gathering in front of Menara Kinabalu today.

He said that the Kota Kinabalu District Police Headquarters (IPD) could not process the organisers' application because the required documentation was not provided.

He added that the protest organisers could not be reached but a response letter had been sent to them via post and WhatsApp, informing them that the application could not be processed.

The protest participants plan to rally from the university campus to the Sabah State Administrative Complex after