Students plan to submit memorandum

IGNORED by the Higher Education Ministry, the Solidariti Mahasiswa Malaysia (SMM) is not about to give up their effort to abolish the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) just yet.

They now plan to send a memorandum to the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, hoping Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu’azam Shah would hear their demands.

SMM president Muhammad Safwan Anang said the government left them with little choice after snubbing their demonstration at Dataran Merdeka since Saturday.

“If there is still no government response, we will present the memorandum to the King at a royal concert here (Dataran Merdeka), scheduled from today to Saturday. “We are frustrated our request for a dialogue is ignored by the government,” he said.

Safwan said SMM also submitted an application to Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) yesterday for them to legally set up their tents at Dataran Merdeka.

“We have applied to DBKL to camp here until April 28, to coincide with the planned Bersih 3.0 rally that day. Hopefully, Mayor Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail will approve our application,” he said.

Muhammad Safwan promised the ‘camping activity’ would be peaceful and would not disturbed public security.

Asked on Higher Education Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin’s request for the protesters to return their PTPTN money if they believed in the cause, Muhammad Safwan said the students have no problem with it.

“We are willing to pay the loan amount because our aim is to fight for the next generation so they will not be burdened as we do,” he said.

On the third day of the protest yesterday, scuffle between the protesting students and DBKL officials continued.

The protesters set up six tents and when the DBKL officials came, the students dismantled five of them but left one as a symbolic gesture of protest.

In protecting the tent, students engaged City Hall officials in a scuffle. One of them, said to be a Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris student, sustained minor injuries.