

30 MAR 2001

Tajol-Imams

DON'T PLAY POLITICS IN MOSQUES, IMAMS TOLD

IPOH, March 30 (Bernama) -- Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali today advised imams not to play politics in mosques and suraus to maintain their respect among muslims.

"I'm not saying that imams have not right to be in politics but when they are in mosques and suraus, they should refrain from doing so to preserve the respect for the institution of imam.

"When they're in mosques, their responsibility must be to the Perak Islamic Religious Council.

"Playing politics in places of worship can create a non-harmonious situation among muslims," he told reporters when asked to comment on a two imam incident in a mosque in Gerik, Perak recently due to political differences.

Tajol Rosli said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that non-muslims do not bring their political problems to places of worship despite of their different political leanings.

He said politicians should not be carried away with their political beliefs to the extent of influencing muslims coming to mosques and suraus to perform prayers, attending feasts, parent-teacher association meetings and participating in gotong-royong activities.

If they want to raise political matters, they could do so in Parliament, he said.

On imams delivering Friday sermons with political undertones, he said they should stick to the texts provided by the authorities.

-- BERNAMA

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