

02/09/2002

Wanita Umno wants mufti to act

SEREMBAN, Sun. - Wanita Umno head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz today urged the State religious councils to take action concerning the claim by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat that God is a samseng (gangster).

She hoped the religious councils and those with integrity such as the mufti would make a decision on the matter to correct the situation.

"Religious leaders should not keep quiet and let the matter prolong. This is not a matter of politics but touches on faith.

"If what is being said is a lie or political ploy, we can handle them, but when it has something to do with religious fundamentals, especially concerning the sanctity of Allah and misinterpretation, we can't keep quiet," she said after giving away prizes to participants of the Quran recital and nasyid competition in conjunction with Negri Sembilan Wanita Umno Day here.

Rafidah said action must be taken against whoever said that God was a gangster as it not only tarnished Islam, but was also an inappropriate description of Allah.

In Kota Baru, Muslim Scholars Association of Malaysia (PUM) president Abdul Ghani Shamsuddin said the issue of Nik Aziz's remarks linking Allah with samseng should be discussed by the religious authorities, including the mufti and ulama.

He said the accusation that one had insulted religion and God was a serious matter and should be discussed by the ulama.

"We should not be making threats which show that we are forcing our views on others," he said after giving a ceramah at the Pas Islamic Training Centre (Putik) here last night. Also present was Nik Aziz.

Ghani was commenting on a statement by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that action will be taken against Nik Aziz if he refuses to repent for making the remarks linking Allah to samseng.

On him speaking at a Pas platform, Ghani said that PUM had always maintained itself as a non-governmental organisation free from party politics.

"I came here tonight on an invitation. Even if Umno invites us to speak, I will attend," he said.