

Pay heed to prayer session, cabinet told
Malaysiakini.com
April 3, 2007

Tomorrow's cabinet meeting must pay 'serious attention' to a week-long prayer session organised by a council of religions to protect the rights of non-Muslims, said Parliamentary Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang.

Yesterday, the Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism (MCCBCHST) announced that it will organise prayer sessions seeking divine intervention for the government to uphold the Federal Constitution.

The prayer session was prompted by a court battle involving a Hindu woman R Subashini who is trying to prevent her husband, who recently converted to Islam, from converting their one-year-old son.

"It is a cry of despair and desperation when MCCBCHST has to resort to a special prayers campaign to press their plight over their anxieties and fears over growing encroachments of religious freedoms and rights," Lim said in a statement today.

"All cabinet ministers should feel thoroughly ashamed of themselves that they have driven MCCBCHST to seek 'divine help' instead of 'human intervention' to resolve the worsening constitutional crisis over freedom of religion..." he added.

Lim also said there is a need to re-examine the memorandum presented by nine non-Muslim ministers previously in relation to the M Moorthy case.

According to him, there was no conflict and tension between Muslims and non-Muslims before the 1988 constitutional amendment to Article 121(1A).

He said if the question was asked then whether the rights and interests of non-Muslims could be adversely affected, the answer would be "an indisputable no."

He said such an answer could no longer be given.

Following the amendment, civil courts no longer have jurisdiction on matters falling under the Syariah Court.

Copyright © 1999-2007 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd.
Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/65437>