

**Set up Islamic affairs ministry, says Perkasa**  
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Malay rights group Perkasa today suggested that an Islamic affairs ministry be set up to tackle all issues related to Islam which are becoming increasingly challenging.

Its president Ibrahim Ali said it was time that such a ministry be set up because Islam-related issues must be given more attention, as it involved sensitivities which should not be played up by other quarters.

“Perkasa suggests that Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak seriously thinks about setting up this ministry, otherwise issues related to Islam cannot be resolved in a more systematic manner,” he told reporters after handing over the Jalur Gemilang (Malaysian flag) to more than 100 trisha riders in conjunction with the country's 54th Independence anniversary in Pasir Mas.

He said the Islamic Development Department (Jakim) was incapable of resolving all issues related to Islam more effectively because it was only an agency.

Ibrahim, who is also member of parliament for Pasir Mas, later rode a trisha around town, which attracted public attention.

He said although the public was enthusiastic about preparing for Aidilfitri, they should not take a dim view of the Independence Day celebration it was an important occasion that should be celebrated with full gratitude.

- Bernama