

BN trio face reprimand for Section 114A gripe

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By Kuek Ser Kuang Keng

The cabinet has accepted a suggestion to reprimand three key BN leaders for their open objection to Section 114A of the Evidence Act 1950.

The trio are Deputy Higher Education Minister Saifuddin Abdullah, Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Gan Ping Sieu (left) and Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin.

Government sources told Malaysiakini that the cabinet made the decision at its meeting on Aug 15, which was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.

"It was suggested that the prime minister or deputy prime minister should summon the two deputy ministers and give them a warning because their actions went against the government's stance," a source revealed.

"It was also suggested that Minister in Prime Minister's Department Mohd Nazri Abdul Aziz should meet with the two deputy ministers and Khairy to hear their views, and provide them with the government's explanation."

A day before the meeting, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, who was abroad then, had instructed the cabinet to discuss the contentious amendment, following a major online protest dubbed 'Internet Blackout Day'.

However, the meeting decided not to review the amendment. The decision was later reaffirmed and explained by Nazri.

According to the sources, the cabinet is of the view that if action was not taken, it would jeopardise the government's credibility and weaken the administration.

"The cabinet also noted that the trio have been openly issuing statements contradicting government policies.

"They should have convey their views through internal channels such as their ministers or political parties," a source added.

It was also disclosed that the cabinet members had pointed out that disciplinary action had been taken against defiant members of the administration since the era of second prime minister Abdul Razak Hussein.

However, they noted that this practice is absent in the current administration.

Khairy: No reprimand

Khairy, when contacted, initially said he would meet Nazri and attorney-general Abdul Gani Patail this afternoon to pursue his views on the amendment.

After a long meeting with Nazri and Gani, he denied that he would be reprimanded.

"No reprimand at all so maybe your information is not entirely accurate or something happened today," he said, referring to the cabinet meeting that Najib chaired this morning.

Contacted earlier today, Saifuddin said he is not aware of any reprimand.

"Didn't receive anything yet, so no comment," he replied.

Saifuddin had earlier this month vowed to rally BN MPs against the controversial amendment.

Gan, Nazri and Gani have yet to respond to a request for comments.

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