

Soi Lek blames non-Muslim ministers for conversion Bill
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Following the withdrawal of the Administration of Islam (Federal Territories) Act Amendment Bill 2013 in Parliament today, MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek has demanded that non-Muslim ministers explain why they had allowed such a bill to be passed by the cabinet.

NONEChua (right) said in a statement today that he believes the bill had been thoroughly deliberated in the cabinet before it was tabled in Parliament for its first reading.

"I cannot understand how the non-Muslim cabinet ministers were not aware of the difference (of) the terms 'mother or father' and 'parent' in Section 107(b) of the bill until passed for tabling in the Parliament.

"The non-Muslim cabinet ministers should give the people an explanation as to how they allowed such a sensitive bill, which involves the conversion of minors, to be passed unanimously by the cabinet."

'Unnecessary controversy'

Chua said such a move had triggered unnecessary controversy and that this would also affect the BN-led federal government's image.

"Therefore, the non-Muslim cabinet members have the responsibility to explain to the public," stressed the former health minister.

After its abysmal performance in the May 5 general election, MCA decided not to accept any government post, including the four ministerial positions conventionally reserved for the Chinese-based party.

Chua also said the MCA welcomes the decision to withdraw the bill.

"This shows that the government listens to the people and that it has heeded the people's aspirations."

He added that MCA also supports the call to amend Section 95 of the Administration of Islamic Laws Act 1993, which uses the same wording of 'mother or father', and other relevant state enactments to ensure that conversion of a minor to Islam is

carried out only with the consent of both parents.

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