

DAP regrets shower room case closed in 'nervous haste'

MalaysiaKini.com

July 25, 2013

DAP is disappointed that the Education Ministry has decided to put a lid on the controversy of non-Muslim pupils using the shower room as a makeshift canteen during Ramadan.

dapsy agm 091212 lim guan eng Party secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said Deputy Education Minister II P Kamalanathan closed the case involving Sk Seri Pristana in Sungai Buloh in "nervous haste".

Lim said the parents want an answer to the "inconsistencies and self-contradictions in facts and events" surrounding the matter.

"All Malaysians want the truth and nothing but the truth to be revealed before they are convinced by Kamalanathan's claims that this is not an issue related to race or religion," he added in a statement.

The Penang chief minister said that such hastiness in closing the controversy would be seen as a "cover-up" unless Kamalanathan can explain why the parents were not informed since March this year that the canteen would be relocated to the shower room because of renovations.

"Further, why were there no signs of renovation of the canteen? If the renovation has been only recently completed, why was the canteen not reopened?" Lim queried.

"Lastly, how can Kamalanathan fail to address the parents' complaints that their children were only asked to eat in the makeshift canteen in the shower room two days into Ramadan?" he further asked.

Those responsible must be punished

Lim said that while it was one thing to resolve the issue, equally important was punishing those responsible for the matter so that such incidents do not recur.

NONE He added that the public wanted to know how it happened in the first place because it is "humiliating" for children to eat in a shower room.

Lim said a strong message must be sent that civil servants must respect the

sensitivities and rights of all communities.

"Failure to do so will only accelerate the negative perception that the sensitivities and rights of non-Muslims can be trampled upon without punishment," he said.

"Such negative perception can easily turn to a feeling of victimisation by non-Muslims," he added.

Lim said the party was "saddened" by pictures of policemen with heavy weapons standing guard outside the school, holding back angry parents and their friends.

"Do Malaysian schools have to deteriorate to this level where policemen with weapons are required to stand guard outside not to protect the school against criminals but against angry parents seeking answers and justice?" he asked.

Copyright © 1999-2012 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd

Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/236691>