

## **NGO: Probe 'barking up wrong tree' DPM for sedition**

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**By RK Anand**

The police must investigate Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin under the Sedition Act for barking up the wrong tree over the dog-trainer video that was deemed offensive to Muslims, said a coalition of NGOs.

Malaysian Indian Progressive Association (Mipas) secretary-general S Barathidasan said that he would file a police report on this matter soon.

NONE"Muhyiddin had jumped the gun and suggested that a non-Muslim was behind the video. Such an action was both unbecoming and irresponsible.

"As the deputy prime minister, he should have checked the facts first before shooting off his mouth," he told Malaysiakini.

Barathidasan said that Muhyiddin's callous remarks had the potential to ignite racial and religious tension.

As the deputy prime minister, he added that Muhyiddin should be working towards fostering ties between the various religious communities as opposed to straining them.

"Muhyiddin must remember that he is the deputy prime minister for all Malaysians and not just the Malays and Muslims.

"Mipas is curious why our deputy prime minister was silent when Perkasa leaders like Ibrahim Ali and Zulkifli Noordin as well as academic Ridhuan Tee Abdullah insulted other religions?" he asked.

'Muhyiddin broke the law'

Prior to the identity of the person in the video being established as a Muslim, Muhyiddin had lamented that "the callousness of some towards Islam and Muslim sensitivities" could spark disharmony among Malaysians.

NONE"Is this a manifestation of the assumption of some quarters that we (Muslims) are weak and that they could walk all over us? Or that we are afraid to react when others insult the sanctity of Islam?" the deputy prime minister had said during a breaking fast event in Putrajaya.

"No Muslim has made fun of other faiths," he had added.

However, the person in the video was later identified as Maznah Mohd Yusof, a 38-year-old Muslim dog trainer.

Maznah, who was arrested yesterday, is being investigated under Section 298A of the Penal Code which deals with causing disharmony in relation to religion and Section 4 of the Sedition Act.

However, Barathidasan pointed out that Muhyiddin's incendiary remarks were also in breach of the above laws.

"I am not sure if Maznah has breached the law but I am certain that Muhyiddin did and therefore action must be taken against him," said the NGO leader.

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