

Stop harassing dog trainer, says Ambiga

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By RK Anand

Since news of her canine Hari Raya video broke, Maznah Mohd Yusof, or better known as Chetz, has become a household name.

The 38-year-old Muslim dog trainer received death threats, the imam in her neighbourhood allegedly attempted to assault her and the police have arrested her.

She is now being held for investigation under the Penal Code and Sedition Act.

Bersih co-chairperson - Ambiga Sreenevasan Commenting on this, former Bar Council president S Ambiga (left) expressed concern over the harassment faced by the dog-trainer in the hands of the police.

"I am deeply worried for her safety as well as about the threats she has been receiving," she added.

Ambiga, who is also Bersih 2.0 chairperson, said it was up to the individual whether one agreed or disagreed with the video.

"My concern, however, is related to the over-the-top responses to Maznah's video," she told Malaysiakini.

On a sarcastic note, Ambiga also noted the expeditious manner in which the police had swung into action over the three-year-old video.

The speed and efficiency shown in this case, she added, were a far cry when dealing with cases of corruption and abuse of power involving ruling politicians.

"This is what disgusts many right-thinking Malaysians," she stressed.

Muhyiddin 'misleading the public'

Ambiga also took a swipe at Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin for jumping the gun on the video controversy by suggesting that it was the work of a non-Muslim.

But she disagreed with the call by certain quarters to probe the deputy prime minister for sedition.

NONE "I am not fan of the Sedition Act. I will not advocate the use of this Act against anyone," she explained.

However, Ambiga said she was appalled that the deputy prime minister made such a provocative statement.

"He has not withdrawn or apologised for it. I find this alarming.

"As the deputy prime minister, he should know that failure to retract an erroneous statement is tantamount to misleading the public," she added.

Far from calming the situation, Ambiga lamented that political leaders were inflaming the situation.

"There is an overwhelming concern among Malaysians... one needs to only look at the events over the past one week or so to know why there is this sense of unease.

"Heartbreaking incidents of violence, murder and the fanning of religious sentiments do not augur well for the future of this nation," she said.

No leadership from Najib

In an obvious reference to Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's protracted silence since the conclusion of the 13th general election, Ambiga said the situation was deteriorating due to a lack of leadership.

"It seems like we are adrift with no sense of direction. Our leaders seem more preoccupied with winning their respective party elections.

"How can one win in the party polls by being extreme, unfair, unjust, racist and selective is beyond me, and what does that say about your party?" she asked.

NONE According to Ambiga, since the last general election, the victors were behaving like the losers.

"There is a total absence of leadership. Why do they contest in the elections if they don't want to lead?

"The quality of the cabinet save for one or two members leaves much to be desired but the prime minister keeps quiet and allows the members of this cabinet to speak (on his behalf).

"I find it offensive that we have to wait until after the party elections to see some leadership," she added.

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