

DPM's silence blamed for 'rising racism' at Seri Pristana
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Education Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's complete silence on the "bullying" at SK Seri Pristana is to be blamed for the exodus of non-Muslim pupils from the school, said DAP.

"It is worrying too that this whole problem may soon become a racial problem as the students who have been picked on and bullied happen to come from one race.

teresa kok seputeh campaign centre" There is no doubt that the person who must be held responsible for not nipping the bullying problem in the bud is the education minister.

"It is baffling and unbelievable that Muhyiddin could remain silent and do nothing till this day," said DAP vice-chairperson Teresa Kok (left) in a statement today.

As of Tuesday 10 pupils have asked to be transferred out of the controversial Sungai Buloh school following the arrest of V Kumancan, a father of a pupil at the school.

The school rose to infamy during the Ramadan period for allegedly making its non-Muslim students have their meals in a makeshift canteen in a shower room.

'Problem getting bigger'

Following the controversy, Guneswari Kelly, one of the parents of the students who complained of the situation said she received threats but still the ministry did nothing, said Kok.

"It is shocking and sad that the problem of bullying and intimidation was not nipped in the bud when the whistleblower Guneswari's daughter's plight of being picked on and ostracised was first widely reported.

"The education minister, his officials and the school kept quiet when Guneswari had to transfer her out of SK Seri Pristana to a Tamil school.

"Now, the problem has got bigger," said the Seputeh MP.

Kok asked what was to become of the upcoming education blueprint in light of the minister's inability to tackle the Seri Pristana situation, echoing former minister

Zaid Ibrahim's sentiments.

Kok said that the matter requires the immediate attention of the cabinet, and also said that the police deserve to be criticised for questioning the school pupils.

"How could the police be so unprofessional and insensitive not to understand how primary school children will react to being 'interviewed' by police?" she asked.

"The police's explanation that the pupils were 'interviewed' and 'not questioned' is weak and unacceptable," she added.

She also urged the police to apologise over their actions, while asking authorities to provide counselling for the children who were affected by the incident.

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