

PAS MP advises DAP trio 'not to interfere'

MalaysiaKini.com

Jan 8, 2014

By Abdul Rahim Sabri

It is unreasonable of the three Selangor DAP assemblypersons to "interfere" in Islamic affairs by proposing an amendment to the Selangor Non-Islamic Religions (Control of Propagation Among Muslims) Enactment 1988, says PAS Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad.

Khalid - who four years ago raised controversy by making a similar proposal - now says that this would be seen as non-Muslims meddling in "Islamic affairs".

The PAS central committee member said that by intervening in Islamic affairs, the trio were contravening the DAP's own struggles as well as making worse an already contentious situation.

"Just as (non-Muslims) do not want Muslims to interfere in their affairs, Muslims, too, do not want non-Muslims to interfere in Islamic affairs.

"(The assemblypersons) actions are going against their own principles and will make matters worse," Khalid said in a text message to Malaysiakini.

He was commenting on the call by three DAP assemblypersons who are still adamant with their proposal despite rebukes from civil society groups, PAS and PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim.

'Not the DAP's stand'

The trio - Yeo Bee Yin (Damansara Utama), Lau Weng San (Kampung Tunku), Rajiv Rishyakaran (Bukit Gasing) - said the proposal is their personal view, and not DAP's stand, following the raid on the Bible Society of Malaysia by the Selangor Islamic Affairs Department (Jais) on Jan 2.

Khalid called on Yeo, Lau (right) and Rajiv to be patient and to place their confidence in Muslims to "free themselves" from political games that he claimed abused Islam.

"The struggle to liberate Muslims from those who use and abuse Islam must be spearheaded by Muslims themselves, without help from others.

"I am sure this can be achieved as Islam teaches its adherents to respect other religions. This principle is now a blur because some people are playing with emotions, but I am certain it will emerge more clearly once this matter is debated in a more intellectual manner," he said.

Khalid in 2010 sparked controversy when he said that the same enactment, which bars the use of the word 'Allah' by non-Muslims, is "out of date" and "goes against the spirit of Islam".

"I urge that it is reviewed and open for discussion. We cannot just say this thing has been legislated so we just follow and not review it. That is a backward approach inconsistent with Muslims," he was quoted as saying then.

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