Why is PM 'silent as a mouse' on 10-point pact?
MalaysiaKini.com
Jan 10, 2014

DAP's Tony Pua has urged Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to speak up on the 10-point agreement as a solution to the Bible Society of Malaysia (BSM) incident.

Unhappy with inconsistent cabinet ministers' views following the Selangor Islamic Affairs Department's (Jais) action to take away 321 copies of the Malay-language Bible last Thursday, Pua said the controversy can only end if Najib can stop being "silent as a mouse".

Najib must reaffirm what he had said just 12 weeks ago at the 28th Congress of Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) when a similar polemic emerged, Pua stressed.

"His nonchalance on the issue will only allow the tensions and unease to spread and rise, particularly with conflicting statements issued by his own cabinet ministers," said Pua, the MP for Petaling Jaya Utara.

Pua noted that while Health Minister Dr S Subramaniam (left) had assured the public that a decision has been made at the first cabinet meeting of 2014 yesterday, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Jamil Khir Baharom has almost immediately said no.

He contradicted the health minister by claiming that the government will await the Federal Court decision, which will take another two months at the earliest.

"So why is it so difficult for the cabinet meeting held on Wednesday to confirm that the Najib administration has no intention to dishonour the 10-point solution and proceed to ensure that all states streamline their relevant legislative enactments accordingly?" Pua, who is also DAP publicity chief, said in a press statement.

The 10-point agreement, among other things, allows the Bible in all languages to be brought into Malaysia on the condition that the church clearly marks it "for Christians only".

Pua quoted a part from Najib's speech at the PBS congress where he held up the 10-point agreement as an effective formula for harmony.

"You do not have to know rocket science to find a formula for harmony. The

solution is just rational thinking," Najib was quoted saying.

"We urge the prime minister to be rational. And a rational solution in this case means Malaysians have the right to practice their religious beliefs in their language of choice," Pua added.

Pua reminded Najib that his international reputation is at stake if he does not speak up now. Noting that the Malay Bible or Alkitab has been in existence for more than a hundred years in this country, Pua said there was no basis for the holy book to be suddenly banned.

Meanwhile, Gerakan president Mah Siew Keong echoed DAP's view that the 10-point solution needs to be brought into play.

"Set aside all the political differences and work together to endorse the 10-point solution to resolve the 'Allah' issue," Mah noted in a statement.

Calling the 10-point solution not legally binding but a policy directive that must be honoured, Mah urged both federal and state governments to close ranks behind it.

He said it was a fair and considerate consensus reached in the spirit of moderation and tolerance by important political and religious leaders.

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Source: http://beta.malaysiakini.com/news/251462