

'Najib quick on kangkung but mum on Allah'

MalaysiaKini.com

Jan 20, 2014

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak was quick to respond to ridicule over the kangkung fiasco, but has yet to speak up despite promising a decision on the Allah row after cabinet had discussed it for weeks, said DAP.

"It has been more than 17 days since Selangor Islamic Affairs Department (Jais) blatantly violated the cabinet's 10-point solution (on the Christians' use of 'Allah') and it has been more than 11 days since the cabinet discussed the Allah issue.

"The prime minister has yet to show leadership and speak on the issue.

"Yet three days ago, he was so quick to react against the kangkung ridicule against him.

"Malaysians must now wonder where his sense of priorities is," said DAP Seputeh MP Teresa Kok in a statement today.

She was responding to Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nancy Shukri who, in a report in The Star on Saturday, was quoted saying that the government has always observed the 10-point solution.

Despite the 2011 cabinet solution promised to Christians, Jais raided the Bible Society of Malaysia (BSM) on Jan 2 and confiscated over 300 copies of the Malay and Iban-language Bible containing the word 'Allah'.

BSM is the main source of such copies of the Bible for Sarawakians and Sabahans.

Kok said Najib had promised to issue a statement on the matter after discussing it with the cabinet.

"It was reported on Jan 9 that the prime minister would announce a cabinet decision on the public concerns arising from the issue of non-Muslims using the kalimah Allah.

"Health Minister S Subramaniam was quoted saying that the cabinet did discuss the issue on January 8 and that the prime minister would make the announcement.

"He said the cabinet decided that only one voice would speak," said Kok.

Pushing blame to Selangor

In The Star, Shukri (right) was reported saying, "What has become an issue now is that some people think the 10-point solution is not being observed.

"Actually we have never diverted from the 10-point solution and what has been agreed before, among them the issue of Allah, doesn't affect Sabah and Sarawak," she was reported telling the media in Kuching on Friday.

Shukri reportedly pushed the responsibility of the raid to the state government saying it was for them to resolve.

Kok responded asking, "The immediate questions which came to my mind upon reading her comment were firstly, if she has become the cabinet spokesperson on the 10-point solution, and secondly, has the cabinet decided that the 10-point solution could be violated by any state religious authority?"

Jais, a state department said to take instruction from the sultan, had used the state enactment on banned words for non-Muslims as justification for the raid and had bypassed the state government.

On Jan 11, the Selangor Islamic Religious Council (Mais) affirmed Jais' position saying that the Selangor government has no authority over the enforcement body.

"Jais is under Mais, which is also headed by the Selangor sultan as the state Islamic chief. The state government has no say over Jais' enforcement activities," Mais chairperson Mohamad Adzib Mohd Isa was quoted saying in a report on The Malay Mail Online.

Copyright © 1999-2012 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd

Source: <http://beta.malaysiakini.com/news/252259>