

Gerakan blasts Pakatan silence on wedding fiasco
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Gerakan has blasted Pakatan Rakyat leaders, notably DAP and PKR, for their total silence on the Selangor Islamic Religious Department's (Jais) raid on a Hindu wedding in Petaling Jaya on Sunday.

Gerakan's national legal and human rights bureau chief Baljit Singh chided Pakatan for not condemning Jais for the "outrageous manner" in which it tried to force its religious beliefs on the Hindu family.

"These leaders are very quick to condemn the federal government on religious issues, for example, in cases of apostasy such as the famous Lina Joy case, but suddenly seem to have lost their tongues when it comes to this Hindu family," Baljit (right) told Malaysiakini.

"Is it because it is a Hindu wedding that DAP does not care about, as it mostly speaks up for the Chinese? Only Persatuan Hindraf Malaysia (PHM) issued a statement because this is a Hindu matter," he added.

"What happened to DAP senior leader Lim Kit Siang, his son, Penang Chief minister Lim Guan Eng or PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim?" he asked.

"How about the Muslim and Christian leaders? When they are in trouble, other races and people of other faiths speak up for them. But in this case, everyone is as silent as a lamb.

"Have the cats suddenly bitten their tongues?" Baljit asked, obviously furious at the total lack of outrage over the incident, which followed several other unpopular actions by Jais against non-Muslims.

One of the most controversial actions by Jais was to raid the Bible Society of Malaysia early this year and cart away about 300 copies of the Bible in the Malay and Iban languages.

'Bride was taken away for questioning'

Jais, a religious body under the purview of the Selangor government, denied its officers raided the wedding.

Instead, Jais sources justified the action of taking the bride away on her wedding day to its Shah Alam headquarters for questioning by quoting a 1988 state law to prevent Muslims converting out of the faith.

The 32-year-old bride was later revealed to have grown up as a Hindu, even though her

identity card marked her and her siblings as Muslims.

So far, only PAS and PHM have issued statements, with PAS central committee member Ridhuan Mohd Nor (right) warning that love and weddings have become tools to undermine the Muslim faith.

PHM urged MPs to amend the laws to stop "overzealous" Jais officers from overstepping their boundaries.

Baljit questioned whether Pakatan leaders, who are usually vocal about such issues, were quiet because Jais comes under the PKR-led Selangor government.

"It is not only unfair and practise of double standard, but shows the highest form of hypocrisy among all the Pakatan leaders.

"Leaders must show their concern for all, not just those who can cast their votes for them. They cannot just speak up for the community that is their largest voter base.

"At least PAS is consistent and has spoken up. Although I do not agree with its stand, at least we can dialogue with PAS as it makes its stand known all the time," Baljit added.

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