

Cabinet backs PM on apex court proposal
MalaysiaKini.com
Jun 13, 2014

The cabinet has agreed to Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's proposal that interfaith custody disputes be brought to the Federal Court, said Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin today.

"Yes, it was the prime minister's statement yesterday that we want to refer this to the apex court and that it will be done quickly because there cannot be any further delay as far as this case is concerned.

"So just to reiterate, it is what the prime minister announced yesterday," he told reporters when asked if the matter was raised during the cabinet meeting this morning.

There are currently two high-profile interfaith custody battles ongoing, involving M Indira Gandhi against her ex-spouse Muhammad Ridhuan Abdullah at the Ipoh High Court, and S Deepa (right) against her ex-spouse Izwan Abdullah at the Seremban High Court.

In both cases, the syariah court and the civil court have each issued conflicting orders on who has custody of the children, with the syariah court ruling in favour of the Muslim convert fathers and the civil court ruling in favour of the Hindu mothers.

The Seremban High Court had issued a recovery order instructing the police to return V Mithran to her mother Deepa, while Muhammad Ridhuan has missed a court order deadline last week to return a six-year old girl to her mother Indira (left).

However, Indira's lawyer, M Kulasegaran, criticised Najib over his "disappointing" advice.

Cabinet reshuffle?

On another matter, Khairy was also asked when is the next cabinet reshuffle expected to take place, and what are his hopes for the new line up.

However, he sidestepped the questions, saying that these matters are the sole prerogative of Najib.

"This is the prerogative of the prime minister, I don't think people should be speculating or speaking about the cabinet reshuffle," he added.

Previously, it was speculated that a cabinet reshuffle is due soon, with four MCA and two Gerakan MPs joining the cabinet without any existing cabinet members being dropped.

However, Bernama later quoted Najib saying that he is "unaware" of any reshuffle.

Meanwhile, Berita Harian quoted sources as stating that the reshuffle would take place today.

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