

**PAS reps want Selangor to remove Mais' power**  
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Four Selangor PAS parliamentarians want the state government to amend the laws to remove executive powers from the Selangor Religious Islamic Council (Mais), so that it can no longer issue orders to the Selangor Religious Islamic Department (Jais).

Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad (right), Sepang MP Hanipa Maidin, Kota Raja MP Siti Mariah Mahmud, and Hulu Langat MP Che Rosli Che Mat told a press conference in the Parliament lobby today that Mais is an institution that is seen to be close to the Sultan of Selangor.

"An institution close to the sultan cannot be seen as having executive powers. That will taint the institution itself," said Khalid, who is also PAS central committee member alongside Hanipa.

Siti Mariah is also Selangor PAS deputy commissioner.

The MPs were responding to the refusal of Mais and Jais to return copies of the Bible in the Malay and Iban languages seized from the Bible Society of Malaysia (BSM) in January, an action that they said tainted the image of Islam itself.

Khalid said Jais should be held answerable to the state executive councillor in charge of Islamic affairs and not to Mais.

PAS has nothing to do with Mais, Jais

He also said PAS had "nothing to do" with the conduct of Mais and Jais.

"A lot of people have used this opportunity to say this is an example of how PAS will behave if the party forms the government.

"This has nothing to do with PAS. Jais and Mais leaders are not appointed by the Selangor state government either," Khalid said.

He said the actions of the religious bodies were giving an impression that they do not respect the holy scriptures of the other religions.

"The question of spreading other religions to Muslims here does not arise. I suppose that is the reason why the attorney-general did not press charges either," Khalid added.

