

Mais denies Selangor sultan consents to Perkasa rally
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Perkasa's plan to hold a rally in front of Istana Bukit Kayangan in Shah Alam on Monday does not have the endorsement of Selangor sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, said the Selangor Islamic Council (Mais).

Mais chairperson Mohamad Adzib Mohd Isa (below) said this in reference to Selangor Perkasa chief Abu Bakar Yahya's statement that he will amass between 3,000 to 5,000 people at the palace after receiving an endorsement from the sultan.

"No consent has been given by the Selangor sultan. Therefore we deny Perkasa's statement," he said in a statement today.

Abu Bakar earlier said the rally is intended to voice support for Mais' and the Selangor sultan's handling of the issue of the bibles confiscated from the Bible Society of Malaysia (BSM) in January.

Mais had defied the Selangor government's order to return the holy books despite the Attorney-General's Chambers concluding that the Islamic authorities had no case.

Following Mai's refusal to comply with the state government, the latter sought advice from the Selangor sultan, who asked Mais to refer the matter to the courts on whether the bibles should be returned or destroyed.

321 copies of the Malay and Iban bible which used the word 'Allah' to refer to god were confiscated by the Selangor Islamic Affairs Department (Jais), an agency under Mais.

The grounds for the raid was that the holy books allegedly contravened state laws which makes it illegal for non-Muslims to use the word.

Explaining the apparent 'royal rally', Mohamad Adzib said Mais had received a letter from Abu Bakar on June 20 intended for the sultan to grant permission for Perkasa's rally the following Monday.

However, he said the letter was not presented to the Selangor sultan as he is overseas and had departed on June 20.

"Instead, the Mais chairperson stated it was up to the NGO's discretion on whether to hold a rally".

This response had apparently given Abu Bakar the impression that the sultan had endorsed

the event

However, Mohamad reiterated that the sultan had "never given consent to any rally anywhere".

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