

Selangor sultan slams PAS MP for anti-Mais remarks
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In a rare public show of disapproval, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah today singled out PAS' Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad for suggesting the powers of the Selangor Islamic Religious Council (Mais) be curbed.

The sultan in a scathing criticism of Khalid, described his remarks as "insolent", saying that it went against his power as the ruler of Selangor, who is also in charge of Islamic affairs, Utusan Online reported this evening.

"Khalid's (right) statement clearly shows he is ignorant about the role of Mais, which is set up under the Selangor constitution to be my adviser and helper in executing my powers as the head of religion in Selangor," the sultan is quoted as saying in his speech before launching the Sepang town mosque this evening.

On June 17, Khalid called for Mais' powers to be curbed after it instructed the Selangor Islamic Affairs Department (Jais) not to return over 300 copies of the Bible which it confiscated from the Bible Society of Malaysia.

Khalid was accompanied by Sepang MP Hanipa Maidin, Kota Raja MP Siti Mariah Mahmud and Hulu Langat MP Che Rosli Che Mat when he made the statement at a press conference in the lobby of Parliament.

The sultan also pointed out Khalid had repeatedly questioned the power of the state's religious authorities.

"This is not the first time Khalid has questioned issues pertaining to the executive powers of the council and the state Islamic enactment which he thinks is obsolete," Sultan Sharafuddin is quoted as saying by The Star Online.

The ruler also urged the vocal parliamentarian to study the history of the state and its laws before making any comments that could cause a stir among Muslims.

"I hope he is more careful when issuing statements that touch on the roles of the sultan and Mais," he said.

According to the news portal, the sultan stressed that Mais had guaranteed the rights and freedom of non-Muslims.

"Mais respects non-Muslims, just as what is stated in the federal constitution.

"Any action by Jais and Mais is to champion the rights of the Muslims without disturbing the non-Muslims," the ruler is quoted as saying.

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