

## **No action on Ibrahim Ali for Bible-burning threat**

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No action will be taken on Perkasa chief Ibrahim Ali over his threat to burn the Malay-language bible as he was "only defending the sanctity of Islam", said the government.

"His statement was not meant to cause religious disharmony (kekecohan agama) but was only meant to defend the sanctity of Islam.

"Therefore the case was not prosecuted," said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nancy Shukri.

She added that Ibrahim had only addressed the statement to those who had allegedly distributed the Malay-language bibles to students, including Muslim, at a school in Penang.

Nancy (left) said this in a written reply to Lim Guan Eng (DAP-Bagan), who asked why Ibrahim was not charged.

Ibrahim at a press conference in Penang reportedly called on Muslims to "seize" and "burn" the bibles.

"Muslims must unite to protect their religion. They must seize those Bibles, including the Malay editions, which contained the term Allah and other Arabic religious terms, and burn them.

"This is the way to show our anger against disrespect to our sensitivity," Ibrahim is quoted as saying by Free Malaysia Today.

Nancy's reply comes after the government said that no action will be taken against Federal Territories Umno Youth chief Mohd Razlan Muhammad Rafii for threatening to burn down the DAP headquarters.

Police also said it will not investigate Petaling Jaya Utara Umno deputy division chief Mohamad Azli Mohamed Saad for sedition for suggesting that vernacular schools be closed down.

20 charged with sedition in 2013/14

Lim had also asked the minister why action is still being taken under the Sedition Act, although the government said it will repeal the Act.

To this, Nancy admitted that the government in 2012 said it intends to repeal the Act and "find a mechanism that can balance freedom of speech and the complexities of a multiracial

society".

However, she said, the government has decided to review this decision following feedback, and will only make a final decision after further consultation with stakeholders.

She said that as the Act is still in place, any offence under it can still be persecuted.

She added that up to Sept this year, there have been twelve charges under the Sedition Act, while there were eight in 2013.

No one was charged under the Sedition Act in 2012 and 2010, while there were one case each in 2009 and 2012.

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