

**Ibrahim Ali: Don't ask non-experts questions on Islam**

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Malay rights group Perkasa President Ibrahim Ali believes that questions related to Islam should not be posed to those who are not experts on the matter.

The former MP said this in relation to his group which had, in its annual general assembly, passed a motion to declare G25 - a group consisting of former top civil servants - as deviants.

"My view with regard to G25, (is that) questions related to Islamic law need those knowledgeable and authoritative about Islam.

"If people like (G25 spokesperson) Noor Farida (Ariffin) want to talk about Islam when she does not have a background in religious knowledge, this will lead to problems," he said at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur.

He also said that only the right people could speak on the matter related to Islam as talking erroneously could lead to syirik (polytheism).

"We are taught in Islam to be careful in matters that could lead us astray. So issues like this, you must ask the mufti, the National Fatwa Council and Islamic scholars," he said.

"Even I am not able to answer (religious questions). And then you ask (prominent lawyer) Ambiga Sreenevasan, of course she won't know."

And because of this, a number of confusion has risen due to Islamic matters being answered by non-Muslims, he added.

According to a booklet listing Perkasa's motions at the NGO's sixth annual general meeting, the decision to urge the government to declare G25 as a deviant group was made because the group supposedly spread "liberal and plural" beliefs that can undermine the Muslim faith.

Noor Farida, at a conference earlier this month, said Islam does not promote intrusion into personal spaces; therefore, khalwat raids by religious authorities should be stopped.

She is purportedly being investigated under the Sedition Act for making the call.

The statement by G25 prompted a mufti to call for its abolition, and Muslim groups to condemn it for purportedly encouraging illicit sex.

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