

Apology ain't good enough, says Fong
Malaysiakini.com
May 18, 2007
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DAP parliamentarian Fong Po Kuan, who bore the brunt of the sexist remarks made by her Barisan Nasional counterparts Bung Mokhtar Radin and Mohd Said Yusof, is not satisfied with their public apology.

The two apologised to "all women in the country offended by the remarks" following a meeting with Women, Family and Community Development Minister Shahrizat Abdul Jalil this morning.

However, Fong claimed that Bung Mokhtar and Mohd Said were not sincere.

"They're not sincere, especially after what happened on Wednesday where they apologised and later retracted their apologies," she said when contacted.

"They are not remorseful. They are just finding excuses to justify their behaviour by saying it was necessary to do it to defend the government during debates in the Parliament," she added.

Fong, who feels that an apology is not sufficient punishment for the duo, said she will discuss with DAP leaders regarding her next move.

Long-term solution

Meanwhile, Women's Development Collective (WDC) executive director Maria Chin Abdullah said the focus should be on a long-term solution.

"An apology is just a small part, I rather not focus so much on it. What is more important is that whether they are going to do it again, and what will be done if it occurs again?" she said.

Maria told malaysiakini that the government has an obligation to ensure that sexism does not occur in Parliament again.

"We don't want to go through the same exercise of staging protests and accepting apologies from MPs again and again," she said, adding that a stop must be put to this.

"MPs like Bung Mokhtar and Badruddin Amiruldin (BN-Jerai) have a history of hurling sexist remarks in Parliament. It has been happening since 1995 and it cannot be allowed anymore," she said.

Maria said any MP who uses derogatory remarks against women should be suspended and his pay and allowances cut until his suspension is over.

"We also propose that the (errant) MPs be made to do community service with a women's organisation for that period," she added.