

Star RFM denies political interference by MCA
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Star RFM chairperson Linda Ngiam today denied that yesterday's suspensions of 'Hello Malaysia' host Jamaluddin Ibrahim's and five other staff members were due to intervention from owners MCA.

During a press conference at Star RFM's office, Ngiam described the issue as purely a "management problem", and parried away perceptions that the suspensions were made due to MCA's political pressure.

NONE "We do not listen to any political master (on) what we should or should not do," she declared.

Ngiam (left) noted that the programme will continue without discussions and call-ins from listeners, and helmed by different deejays.

Ngiam said the MCMC officer came at around 10am and had a brief informal talk with the MCA-owned station's deejays.

She said the MCMC had also issued a letter to the station, claiming that they found the morning programme carried biased and unbalanced reporting, used coarse language and was overall "indecent".

Ngiam said the MCMC, through the letter, advised the station to air content that is "not too controversial" to avoid upsetting the sensitivities of various races and religions.

She noted however that they are still looking into the alleged breach of MCMC guidelines by the programme's deejays, and hopes to get the MCMC's help to "nail down" which segment of the programme carried the offensive content.

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"There are still many other topics to cover such as baby dumping and education... those are very important as well," she added.

'Hi Malaysia' host Jamaluddin Ibrahim was suspended indefinitely yesterday after the MCMC sent its letter to the 988 management.

Not long after, 988 chief executive officer Wong Lai Ngo and senior programme manager Tan Chia Yong were suspended later the same day by Star RFM. Three more hosts were also taken off the air.

After-effects of power struggle

Previously, the departure of host Koh Kok Wee during last year's MCA internal power struggle had allegedly been a result of his ardent criticism of Ong.

Jamaluddin's views have always seemed to favour Ong. He had frequently argued with Koh on-air over MCA related and various other issues.

It is widely believed that the station's decision to invite an openly gay pastor, popular

columnist OYoung Wen Feng, during last Friday's show, as well as discussions about racial discrimination, contributed to Jamaluddin's exit.

OYoung told Malaysiakini that he suspected that remarks alleging that the authorities had used racial issues to worsen the relationships among the races had upset the powers-that-be.

Jamaluddin dismissed suspicion among certain quarters that the whole scandal had been self-created in a bid to boost popularity.

Pakatan leaders also posted their own views on the matter on Facebook or Twitter. DAP Selangor Speaker Teng Chang Khim tweeted "OMG! Jamaluddin Ibrahim, widely known as Jiama, popular DJ on radio station FM988 owned by MCA is dropped from the famous call-in programme".

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