

**Teacher made apology for caning student over non-halal food**  
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KUCHING - Senior assistant of St. Thomas Primary School Iskandar bin Fadeli who caned Basil anak Baginda for bringing non-halal food to school had apologized on Tuesday.

The apology which was made in front of representatives from Education Ministry, the school Board, the headmistress, was accepted by the student's mother, Angela Jabing.

The Education Ministry has also agreed to come up with a new circular to allow students to bring non-halal food from home.

The Ministry said it was only the canteen that was not allowed to sell non halal food.

According to Jabing, Iskandar has admitted his mistake and said the issue had caused him stress and difficulties to concentrate on his teaching.

Jabing said the matter would have been settled earlier if the senior assistant admitted his mistakes in the first place.

In mid-October, Iskandar caned Basil 10 times on his palm for bringing fried rice with pork sausage to school.

Jabing said she was upset with the Deputy Education Minister Wee Ka Song who claimed that she has politicized the matter.

Wee also said the boy was not caned for bringing non-halal food to the school, but for another reason.

"If I want to polarized it, I would not make five trips to the school to deal with the problem," Jabing said.

Adding that she wanted the matter to be solved in order to prevent such incident from happening again, Jabing said ""Now that Iskander has apologised to me, it is obvious that the deputy minister issued a very misleading statement."

Jabing had also asked the Education Ministry to take action against Iskandar.

"The headmistress said Iskandar had erred when he caned my son. He is not allowed to do so unless he asked permission from the authority and there should be witnesses," she said.

Meanwhile, MP for Ambang Zuraida Kamarrudin has sent an email to PKR Sarawak calling for the Minister of Education to get to the bottom of the issue as the principle of Islam has high tolerance on the rights of other religion and culture.

"Bringing food from home is a private affair as long as it is not imposing on others. The authority, she added, must be transparent in clarifying this issue to clear the air once and for all to avoid any such misshape in the future."

Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/50448>