

Christmas Tea Party – PM’s Aide Merely Requested But Did Not Direct for The Removal of Religious Symbols
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Kuala Lumpur – After a long and elegant silence from the Prime Minister’s office with regards the controversial directive to remove crosses from the church during the PM’s attendance at the Christmas tea party, its special officer issues a statement expressing regret over the incident.

However, the aide to the PM, Hardev Kaur denied that she gave any “instruction whatsoever to remove crosses or crucifixes from the church or the vicinity of the function”.

“As the prime minister’s schedule was tight on that day, I had suggested that in the interest of time, the guests could be entertained by the carollers while waiting for his arrival. At no time did I instruct that carols should not be sung or that scriptures should not be read at the function. There was in fact a choral presentation and grace was said,” the statement contained.

Clarifying the issue, Hardev mentioned that she had “suggested that preferably the rostrum from which the prime minister was to deliver his speech be free of any religious symbol. I had made it clear that it was a request and not an instruction.”

She also made it clear that the request did not originate from the PM but was through her own initiative.

The furore over the allegations that the PM’s aide issued a list of instructions to Archbishop Murphy Pakiam and organisers of the Christmas tea party, including instructing the removal of religious symbols from the venue.

Both the PM and Pakiam came under intense attacks from the opposition and Christian community expressing their disappointment over the arrangements, saying that it was in conflict with religious principles and the spirit of 1Malaysia.

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