

Selangor 'un-bans' ban
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KLANG – Selangor made a shock decision to reverse a ban on Muslims working in entertainment outlets selling liquor, barely 24 hours after the state announced the setting up of funds to help those who would lose their jobs.

Exco in charge of local government Ronnie Liu said the state government was worried about the consequences that might arise if the ban - which was in line with the state's syariah enactment - was not lifted.

"The ban would not only result in people losing their jobs but the outlets affected may also have to close shop," he said.

The ruling, he said, was also not clear as it only stated that Muslims could not work in such places.

"What if the Muslim is a director of a pub? What if the person is a cleaner or a cook? It would not be fair for these people to lose their jobs as their scope of work does not require them to handle liquor," Liu said.

MPSJ had announced that licences of entertainment outlets would be revoked if they go against the Selangor syariah criminal enactment banning Muslims from working in outlets selling liquor.

Liu said allowing MPSJ to implement the ban might throw the state and even the nation into chaos.

"What if other councils in the state were to follow suit? What happens if other states also implement a similar directive?" he asked.

Liu said he and Khalid would meet local council presidents and mayors on Monday to explain the consequences.

Sources said the issue might cause a rift between the executive councillors as PAS representatives such as Dr Hassan Ali were supportive of the ban.

However, Shah Alam PAS MP Khalid Samad criticised the move, saying the procedure in which the ban was imposed was not Islamic.

He said there should be proper planning and in-depth discussion with all relevant parties before the ban was implemented.

"Preparations should have been made so that the repercussions of the ban can be mitigated," he said in The Star report.

On Friday, Khalid said Hasan Ali and three other exco members – Yaakob Sapari, Dr Halimah Ali and Rodziah Ismail - would meet the Selangor zakat authority to discuss the setting up of the fund to help those who would lose their jobs as a result of the ban.

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