

PKR's Limpid Excuse For PAS On Liquor Ban
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Unable to cough up any plausible excuse for the Kulim District Office's decision to terminate issuance of liquor licences effective July this year, PKR Kulim state assemblyman Lim Soo Nee can only muster a pathetic accusation that this regulation may be an act of sabotage against the Kedah state government (Malaysiakini, 3 Jan '12).

Income losses and unemployment woes

Before anyone is allowed to sell alcohol to the public, advertisements must be placed via public notification in the newspapers. Unfortunately in Kulim, 100-odd law-abiding liquor sellers now endure the conundrum of having to close shop and retrenching workers.

This latest move which reduces the income of non-Muslims, which may even lead to job cuts of all including Muslim workers like drivers, packers, shop assistants is not the first where local authorities' ruling have impacted against non-Muslim businesses and their multi-racial employees. Unfortunately, this most recent attempt in Kedah does not look like it will be the last as the following examples show.

- Sg Petani Municipal Council instructed that pork butchers darken the windows of their outlets
- Directives issued to Non-Muslim shops to close at 3p.m. during Ramadan.
- Blanket ban on 13 types of entertainment outlets like cinemas, karaoke outlets, live bands in hotel to operate during Ramadan. The prohibition was overturned after pressure from MCA. But licences could still be revoked if a Muslim entered the premises.
- Destruction of Kedah's sole pig abattoir without appropriate relocation, forcing Kedah butchers to obtain their supply from other states.

PAS manifesto reneged

Where livelihoods have clearly been impinged upon, PAS manifesto claiming the promotion of economic welfare by "increasing and broadening the 'middle-income group' across all races, so as to enhance purchasing power" or the Buku Jingga's unsubstantiated section on "increasing the Rakyat's disposable income" weigh nothing more than gibberish nonsense.

Right to drink & being responsible

Allow me to clarify. MCA does not encourage people to drink. Nevertheless, we respect an individual's right to choose to consume alcohol. The individual is and must be responsible for his behaviour while and after drinking.

Our party stresses that PAS should not force their religious-based edicts which have been made into public policy unto non-Muslims. Hence, such regulations by any local authorities in Kedah warrant condemnation and should be reversed.

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