

Don't Be Hoodwinked By Pluralism Claim
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Dr Wee Ka Siong

Who is PAS President Abdul Hadi Awang trying to kid when he extols PAS' so-called but unproven and never-will-be-proven pluralism? Such statements as reported in The Malaysian Insider (9 Mar '12) are conjured as a ploy to restore confidence which plunged following PAS central committee's recent interference into the state administration of Kedah, in complete disregard against their partners DAP and PKR.

Enough examples suffice to indicate that PAS' policies are anything but pluralism-oriented.

The most recent debacle involves the formation of a steering committee with veto powers as an advisory role to the Menteri Besar and Excos of the Kedah state government on state administration. Why should an external political party determine state policies, when state administration should be determined by the Menteri Besar in consultation with all PAS, DAP and PKR excos and elected representatives from their parties at state level who rightly should be representing the electorate's interest.

Other examples include:

- Besides outlawing centuries-old performing arts like wayang kulit and mak yong, crackdown against time-held millenniums-old Chinese traditions commenced: In October 2011, the Pasir Puteh Land and District Office, Kelantan issued a show-cause letter to the Principal of SJKC Kai Chih demanding an explanation for the mid-autumn "entertainment" celebration held at the school without a "licence."
- Kota Bharu Municipal Council issued summon against a Chinese salon owner when her Muslim employee wore a three-quarter sleeve blouse.
- In preparing for the annual PAS Muktamar, PAS emailed a circular to the press corp instructing that non-Muslim female media personnel wear headscarves.
- Kulim District Office instructed that all liquor licences will be terminated effective July 2012; and ordered that entertainment operators pay their licence fees one year in advance, instead of established practice of monthly renewal – thereby affecting people's livelihoods.
- Demolition of the sole swine abattoir in Kedah with no plans to construct a new one.
- Bumiputera quota for housing in Kedah soared to 50%.

The list is endless.

We must recall that after the PAS Muktamar 2011, Hadi AWang declared that "the difference (between their proposed "welfare state" and an "Islamic state" is only SEMANTICS!"

Thus, I urge all Malaysians irrespective of religious creed or ethnicity, not to be hoodwinked by Hadi Awang's latest portrayal of PAS as all-embracing as they clearly are not.

DR WEE KA SIONG is MCA Youth National Chairman

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