

**Stop playing with fire, says Penang DAP**  
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**By Shannon Teoh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 18 — Penang DAP has condemned the attempted arson on its headquarters today as “dangerous and shameful,” calling on critics to engage the DAP-led state government through civilised means instead.

State DAP chief Chow Kon Yeow said in a statement today that the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) state government would engage anyone who was dissatisfied with it as it was open to criticism.

“However, with the mainstream media controlled by the federal government and its ruling political parties, our explanations have been ignored. We are portrayed as racists and bullies, but we have never ever resorted to such violence,” the state executive councillor said.

The Tanjong MP also maintained that the attempt to burn down the DAP office “was not an accident. In view of recent incidents, I view this fire as an intentional co-ordinated act by persons with political motives.”

Ng Wei Aik, political secretary to the chief minister, had told The Malaysian Insider earlier that he believed the attack was “by those unhappy with the loudspeaker ban,” referring to the barring of the use of loudspeakers for reciting verses from the Quran before dawn prayers.

The ban has been played up, especially in Umno-controlled media, as evidence that the DAP-led state government was impinging on the rights of Muslims.

However, PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat and Perlis mufti Juanda Jaya have insisted that the ruling is in line with the religion.

Penang mufti Datuk Seri Hassan Ahmad has also clarified that the decision was not made by the Pakatan Rakyat administration but by the state’s religious authorities.

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