

## **IIUM Lecturer Aziz Bari Slammed In Parliament For Disputing Selangor Sultan's Stand**

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Some lawmakers today slammed law lecturer Prof Dr Abdul Aziz Bari for disputing the Sultan of Selangor's stand on the check conducted by the State Islamic Religious Department (Jais) on a premises belonging to the Damansara Utama Methodist Church, on Aug 3.

The check was conducted following allegations of proselytising of Muslims attending a thanksgiving dinner at the Dream Centre Complex in Petaling Jaya.

Datuk Bung Mokhtar Radin (BN-Kinabatangan) said the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) lecturer should be made to face action for his statement which showed disrespect for the Selangor Sultan as head of the Islamic religion in the state.

Bung Mokhtar also disagreed with the argument of Ahmad Kasim (PKR-Kuala Kedah) that scholars should be given the freedom to voice their opinions.

"Yes, we are free to speak and criticise, but there is a limit. But what he (Abdul Aziz) had said was improper.

"I ask that stern action be taken against him, and I don't care which party he supports," he said when debating on the Supply Bill 2012 in the Dewan Rakyat.

Abdul Aziz was quoted by a news portal (Malaysiakini) as describing the Selangor Sultan's action of intervening in the Jais-church issue as unusual and inconsistent.

Datuk Shamsul Anuar Nasarah (BN-Lenggong) who interjected Bung Mokhtar's debate, also agreed that action be taken against Abdul Aziz as many of his statements and writings were confusing the people, besides being partisan.

"If he had accused the Sultan of making a statement that favoured one side, I see that he is siding with a certain political party, So, if action is taken against Mat Sabu (Pas deputy president Mohamad Sabu) for his insulting statement (over the Bukit Kepong issue), action should be taken too against Aziz Bari."

Datuk Zulkifli Noordin (Independent-Kulim Bandar Baru) shared the lawmakers' views, adding that such a statement "should not have come from someone who calls himself a 'Constitution expert' as the Sultan's power in Islamic matters is provided under Article 47 and 48 of the Federal Constitution".

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