

Najib 'sacrificed his faith' to attend Thaipusam do, says Perak Mufti
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By Syed Mu'az Syed Putra

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10 — Perak Mufti Tan Sri Harussani Zakaria today expressed his dismay over the prime minister's decision to "sacrifice his faith" to attend Thaipusam celebrations at Batu Caves recently.

Harussani said even though he advised Datuk Seri Najib Razak every year not to join such events, the Barisan Nasional (BN) chief appeared not to place much importance on his faith or Islam.

"It's an idolatrous act. I don't know why this happened... when we don't join in the celebrations of other races in their houses of worship.

"The prime minister should have sent a Hindu minister to take his place... as Muslims cannot be involved in other religions' festivities," he told The Malaysian Insider.

Harussani added that the minister in charge of Islamic affairs or a religious advisor should have advised Najib not to attend the event held two days ago.

"We cannot join in (on other religions' celebrations). They perform religious rituals, and as Muslims, we cannot be present," he said, adding that going to open houses was acceptable but not places of worship.

On Tuesday, Najib attended the annual Thaipusam festival at Batu Caves — his third visit in as many years — where he announced an allocation of RM2 million to build a cultural centre in the area.

Najib, who wore a yellow kurta and was joined by his wife, Datuk Seri Rosmah Mansor, had said he was happy to join in the festivities.

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