

"Will BN really punish own news media for getting Muhyiddin wrong?"

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The DAP doubts action will be taken against state news agency Bernama and two Umno-run dailies for misreporting Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's remarks on groups against Islam, given that the Barisan Nasional (BN) practises double standards.

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said the BN government only moved swiftly to punish its opponents, not those who supported them.

"As a victim of repeated lies by these news organisations, I would believe that Muhyiddin is also a victim of such lies.

"Only by punishing these news organisations will they stop spreading such lies that threaten the very fabric of Malaysian nation-building and unity," he said in a statement in George Town today.

The Penang chief minister said the DAP was firm in demanding immediate action by the police against Bernama, New Straits Times and Utusan Malaysia for printing 'false news' that Muhyiddin had blamed non-Muslims for mocking Islam and that he had actually referred to the dog trainer's Hari Raya video clip.

The authorities can act against the print media under the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 and Bernama under the Multimedia and Communications Act 1998.

"The Deputy Prime Minister clarified that he did not specifically mention that non-Muslims had belittled and mocked Islam of late in his widely reported July 30 speech, and was only making a general statement." Lim said,

On July 31, Bernama and the NST had quoted Muhyiddin mentioning "another disturbing video clip" which he said was insensitive to Muslim sensitivities and blamed non-Muslims for insulting the sanctity of Islam when Muslims did not make fun of other faiths.

Lim said that DAP believed Muhyiddin and that NST and Bernama had 'lied' to stoke racial tensions by creating enmity, hatred and fear between Malaysia's Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

Bernama clarified its report yesterday, saying Muhyiddin had made general remarks that were not connected to the dog trainer's video clip.

Maznah Yusof, better known as Chetz, found herself in hot soup after the three-year-old video clip caused a stir among Muslims.

She was arrested on Thursday and was investigated for causing disharmony among religions. She has been freed after a two-day remand in Segamat.

Lim also asked for action against Utusan for publishing lies about Selangor acting police chief Datuk A. Thaiveegan, reporting that the senior cop had warned that the Sedition Act would be used against those who spread photographs of the makeshift canteen in the shower room controversy at SK Seri Pristana recently.

Thaiveegan has denied making that statement. - August 4 2013.

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