

Putrajaya over-reacted to dog trainer's video clip, says Anwar
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The government over-reacted to Maznah Mohd Yusof's controversial Hari Raya greeting by making the video clip into a national issue when it was just offensive to some, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

The three-year video clip featured the dog trainer bathing her dogs with Aidilfitri prayers and a popular song as background audio.

"I think the issue is not because of the dogs but because they (dogs) were linked to Aidilfitri, so call her up and advise her, explain to her," the opposition leader told reporters at the PKR headquarters in Petaling Jaya.

"There is no need to turn it into a national issue. When it comes to (harping on) a small case like this, it reflects badly on our priorities."

His remarks came after the Malaysian Islamic Development Department's (Jakim) declaration that the video insulted Islam and that it plans to press charges against her.

Anwar said there are instances where Muslim leaders linked to Barisan Nasional (BN) held stakes in gambling and liquor companies but no action were taken against them.

"There are those having major interest in (liquor company) San Miguel, (yet) it is a non-issue but this (video clip) becomes a major issue," he said, in an apparent reference to arch-foe Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's son Mirzan.

"We have to be seen to be transparent, honest, and sincere," said Anwar.

He acknowledged that Jakim had a role to play but said it should focus on the major issues.

Maznah was arrested on Wednesday and remanded for two days in Segamat for investigations into the video clip. She was freed without any charges made against her. – August 4, 2013.

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