

Statutory rape remark raises temperatures in Parliament

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KUALA LUMPUR: A comment by MCA vice president Chua Tee Yong (BN-Labis) on the Deputy Minister's remark that non-Malays were less sensitive over statutory rape sparked a heated exchange between MCA and DAP in Parliament today.

This led to Gobind Singh (DAP- Puchong) to accuse MCA members of being hypocrites and Chua demanding that DAP apply the same standards on its coalition partner PAS.

When debating the royal address, Chua said as much as he finds the statement by Deputy Home Minister Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar yesterday unsavoury, PAS leaders too have a record of uttering stereotyped remarks on sex crimes.

Wan Junaidi yesterday told the House that most statutory rape victims were Malay, saying that such crimes offended the Malay sensibilities more than it did the sensibilities of other Malaysians.

"Non-Malays are probably less sensitive towards it, maybe they can accept it, so there are not many reports from them," Wan Junaidi said.

"It is unhealthy for someone to utter stereotype remarks," Chua said. "But let's not practice double-standards, last year, a PAS MP (Siti Zailah Mohd Yusoff) had said that women should not dress scantily and indecently in order to prevent sex crimes."

Gobind then remarked that if MCA was really offended by Wan Junaidi's statement, they must urge him to apologise and retract his statement instead of just paying lip service.

"MCA secretary-general Ong Ka Chuan just said there is no need for the deputy minister to retract his statement. You say one thing in the House and say something else outside," he said.

Chua replied that a "principled" DAP leader like Gobind should have also asked Siti Zailah to retract her statement.

Gobind maintained that DAP would tell things as they are and said MCA should stop being hypocrites.

"Please don't be hypocrites, why is MCA not asking the deputy minister to apologise eventhough you said you do not agree with what he said?"

"This is the problem with MCA, they have no guts to confront the issue. You go around Kajang telling voters that you will be brave enough to speak up, but why are you not speaking up now?"

Gobind retorted.

Chua then shouted: “You dare criticise us, what about PAS?”

Meanwhile, Gobind has urged Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak to state whether he agrees with Wan Junaidi’s statement.

Gobind said that this is the second time the Home Ministry has made a ridiculous remark.

Last month Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said that the individuals who had “threatened to slap Seputeh MP Teresa Kok over a BN satire video had not committed any crime”.

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