

Speaker to decide on Wan Junaidi statutory rape statement

Free Malaysia Today

20 March 2014

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KUALA LUMPUR: Dewan Rakyat speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia will rule next Monday on whether to instruct Deputy Home Minister Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar to retract his statement implying that non-Malays are more tolerant of statutory rape incidents.

According to DAP's Bandar Kuching MP Chong Chieng Jen, deputy speakers Ronald Kiandee and Ismail Said had advised that they would leave it to Pandikar to decide on the matter (as the duo have no authority on the matter).

Wan Junaidi drew strong criticism when he told Parliament on Tuesday that most of the reported statutory rape victims were Malays because it 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.

Following the statement, Chong raised a motion in Parliament yesterday, compelling Wan Junaidi to apologise for his baseless allegations under Standing Order 36(9) and 36(12).

The two laws provide that 'MP's shall not use words which are likely to promote feelings of ill-will or hostility between different communities, and they shall not impute statements that mislead the House'.

"I urge Wan Junaidi not to behave like many of his Umno counterparts, always trying to defend the indefensible. The statement has no logic or basis and no one in his right mind can accept such a statement."

"As such, the only sensible and right thing for Wan Junaidi to do is to immediately withdraw and apologise for his baseless and insulting statement come Monday," Chong said.

Sex education to be taught in school

Meanwhile, DAP's Ipoh Barat MP M Kulasegaran has threatened to refer Wan Junaidi to the House's Rights and Privileges Committee should the latter fail to retract his statement by tomorrow (Thursday). He said statutory rape is a social problem that occurs all over the world, and the correct way to address the issue is by tightening moral policing in schools and to inculcate the right values to youngster.

"Many statutory rape cases involve consensual sex among children under the age of 16, it is not that they want to do this, but they don't understand," he said.

The DAP vice chairman said he was in favour of sex education being introduced as a subject to be taught in schools.

When the statutory rape case involves an adult, he said that “parents must play a part in monitoring their children”.

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Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2014/03/20/speaker-to-decide-on-statutory-rape-statement>