

DAP Youth head slams blog post which claims Friday sermons may be banned in Penang
Malaysian Insider
Feb 18, 2014
OLEH LOOI SUE-CHERN

With concerns over racial and religious tension hogging the headlines following several provocative incidents in Penang, a blog called "Negara Pakatan Rakyat" has posted an article questioning if the DAP-led Penang government is planning to ban Friday sermons in mosques.

The article, which was posted yesterday and likely to cause anxiety among Muslims, came on the heels of several recent incidents including the throwing of a slab of meat, believed to be pork, into the Cheruk Tok Kun Atas mosque in Machang Bubuk and the Molotov cocktail attack on the Assumption Church in George Town.

Bukit Bendera DAP Socialist Youth (Dapsy) chief Mohd Hariszuan Jaharudin, who came across the article yesterday, said this was not an isolated case considering the recent incidents affecting the places of worship in Penang over the last few weeks.

He said the so-called possible ban on Friday sermons was not true.

"The blog does not represent Pakatan Rakyat (PR) and its owner is blatantly trying to confuse the people about interfaith relations in the country, slander the state government and PR," he said.

Mohd Hariszuan has lodged a police report against a Twitter account holder, Abdul Aziz Johari, for sending out "false information" that the Friday sermon may be banned in Penang mosques.

The tweet was linked to the blog-post entitled "Penang pertimbang haramkan Khutbah Jumaat" (Penang considers banning Friday sermon).

Hariszuan slammed Abdul Aziz, who claimed to be Kuala Nerus division Umno Youth working secretary from Terengganu, for making a sensitive remark in relation to the article.

He said Abdul Aziz, who tweets as @rjies22, had allegedly committed racial slander.

"Abdul Aziz used his Twitter account to incite racial sentiments and hatred among the people of different religions.

"He had tweeted that if Penang banned the sermons there will be war. The threat can be regarded as a threat of violence and an attempt to get the people to fight each other," he said after lodging the police report at the Northeast district police headquarters in George Town today.

Hariszuan said Abdul Aziz's tweet was also directed at Lim, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and several other political leaders, who also use Twitter.

"If Abdul Aziz is truly an Umno member, his party should take action against him if it is serious about upholding the national unity agenda and 1Malaysia slogan.

"If not, Umno does not qualify to talk about unity. It fails as a ruling party and has no political will to curb such uncivilised actions," he said.

According to the blog's article in Malay, several DAP leaders had made statements touching on Friday sermons in mosques that were against the spirit of unity and there were rumours that the Penang government was seriously thinking about banning Friday sermons.

The author of the article also wrote that DAP leaders like Petaling Jaya Utara MP Tony Pua, party opposition leader Lim Kit Siang, Seputeh MP Teresa Kok and Penang chief minister Lim Guan Eng "dislike" the contents of Friday sermons said to carry "extremist and discriminatory" messages.

Only yesterday, Lim had said in a statement that there was genuine concern that there may be more attempts to destabilise the PR state administration through acts that disrupts peace and religious harmony.

He said the "destructive groups" involved in such treacherous acts against religious places of worship have not given up on undermining and destabilising the PR Penang state government.

He expressed concern that the groups will not stop until they have achieved their purpose against the state government. – February 18, 2014.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/dap-youth-head-slams-blog-post-which-claims-friday-sermons-may-be-banned-in>