

Transfer Kurup over his hudud remarks, Perkasa tells Najib
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By Hasbullah Awang Chik

Malay rights group Perkasa has demanded that Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Joseph Kurup (pic) be transferred to a different ministry immediately over his remarks on hudud.

Its president, Datuk Ibrahim Ali, said the minister did not deserve to hold the national unity portfolio after claiming hudud would disrupt interracial ties in the country if it was enforced.

"I strongly condemn Kurup's statement. Who is Kurup to say such things? He is the minister in charge of national unity. What about the interests of Muslims? Opposing other people's religious affairs helps with unity?"

"When he makes such statements, he is tarnishing racial harmony. I urge the prime minister to transfer him, as he is currently the minister in charge of national unity. He should be transferred to another ministry," said Ibrahim after meeting with a representative from the Brunei High Commission in Kuala Lumpur today.

Kurup yesterday claimed PAS's move to enforce hudud in Kelantan would threaten national unity, integration and harmony in Malaysia, English-language daily the Star reported today.

He said when hudud was brought up, it sent "shivers" among non-Muslims and they were not happy about it.

Kurup, who is also Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) chairman, said his party would reject any attempt to introduce hudud in the country.

Ibrahim said Kurup's statement was unfair and not only supported the non-Muslims but also denied Islam's position as the official religion in Malaysia.

"I want to stress that Islam is the official religion as stated in the Federal Constitution," Ibrahim said.

"But Kurup has been biased against Islam from the start.

"We know that Malay unity and Islam's importance is the key to national unity.

"If he does not share the same feelings, how is Kurup going to promote unity?" Ibrahim asked.

The former Pasir Mas MP also reminded MPs from PAS and Umno to stop politicising the hudud issue.

He said both Umno and PAS should stop issuing statements on the issue.

"It is a disgrace that we are not looking out for Allah's interests but political interests instead."

Ibrahim also warned MCA to be aware of its status in the political arena and not to be overexuberant in going against Umno.

"The party should remember that in Malaysia's political landscape, it is a has-been."

"We have to accept this fact. MCA is lucky that their support comes in constituencies where Malay support is strong," Ibrahim said.

"Umno has sacrificed and compromised by giving seats to MCA and sharing political power.

"Let us take a history lesson. Did MCA win Bukit Bintang, Seputeh, Kepong, Jelutong, Kota Melaka and Ipoh Timur? Not since the 2008 political tsunami," Ibrahim said.

So, he said, MCA should not put up any opposition against hudud.

"If MCA joins the cabinet, Muslims will not support MCA. All the Malay votes will go to PAS, so I urge MCA not to make more mistakes." – May 5, 2014.

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