

Noh Omar denies Umno behind Bible seizure, calls PAS lawmaker a drunkard
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By Md Izwan

Umno Selangor leader Datuk Noh Omar has denied his party was behind the controversial raid and seizure of Malay and Iban Bibles from the Bible Society of Malaysia (BSM) six months ago.

He said the accusations made against Umno by Selangor PAS deputy commissioner Khalid Samad were baseless and that he had twisted the facts.

"Khalid is talking like a drunkard, trying to twist facts," Noh told The Malaysian Insider.

"Who is ruling Selangor now? Is he not confident about the current state government?"

On Saturday, Khalid had accused Umno of using the Selangor Islamic Religious Council chairman (Mais) to seize power in Selangor through the backdoor.

The Shah Alam MP also alleged that Mais had ordered the Bible seizure and raid at Zarinah Abdul Majid's Hindu wedding.

Khalid said the Mais head, who was appointed by the sultan, was an Umno member.

But Noh said he was unaware whether or not Mais chairman Datuk Mohamad Adzib Mohd Isa was an Umno member.

"I don't know if the Mais chairman is an Umno member or not," said the Batu Karang MP.

"Even if he is, he is just an ordinary member and is not active in politics," said Noh.

He added that even if Adzib were an Umno member, the Mais chairman had done nothing wrong as all individuals were free to join any political party.

"If the accusation is true, it is not a crime. Everyone is free to join a political party, as mentioned in the Federal Constitution," said Noh

On January 2, Jais seized 321 Malay and Iban Bibles from BSM and disrupted the wedding of Zarinah, who was converted to Islam as a child by her Muslim convert father but grew up practising Hinduism.

Although Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail had declared the Bible case closed, Mais and Jais have refused to return the holy books to BSM.

The Sultan of Selangor has ordered Jais to refer the matter of the Bibles to the public prosecutor, so the courts could determine if they should be returned or disposed of. – June 23, 2014.

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