

Dr Mahathir rebukes Jais for disrupting Hindu wedding
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By Lee Shi-Ian

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today rebuked the Selangor Islamic authorities for intruding upon a Hindu wedding ceremony at a temple during the weekend, saying the action went against the teachings of the Quran.

The former prime minister said the Selangor Islamic Affairs Department (Jais) should study the Quran and find out how to handle the situation.

"This type of incidents originates from not adhering to the teachings of the Quran," Dr Mahathir told a press conference at the International Islamic University Malaysia in Gombak.

"The Quran gives us full guidance on how to lead our lives. That is why Islam is described as a way of life."

It was reported on Sunday that officers from Jais had interrupted the wedding at a Hindu temple after receiving reports that 32-year-old bride Zarinah Abdul Majid could be a Muslim.

Checks on Zarinah's MyKad showed that she was Muslim and Jais officers took her away for questioning.

The department acted under Selangor's Non-Islamic Religions (Control of Propagation Among Muslims), which outlines offences deemed as acts of proselytisation by non-Muslims towards Muslims, and grants Jais the power to launch investigations and arrest individuals without producing a warrant.

However, the bride said her father, who had abandoned her family, had registered her as a Muslim but she grew up as a Hindu.

"The contents of the Quran are actually comprehensive and sufficient for guiding us to lead our lives," Dr Mahathir said.

"However, some are selective in taking parts of the Quran and adapting it while disregarding the rest.

"When one becomes fanatical, that is how mistakes occur," he said, referring to Jais's raid of a Hindu temple in Petaling Jaya.

"The Quran says, to you, your religion, to me, mine."

Dr Mahathir also said that Islam has been greatly politicised.

"Everyone wants to show that they are very Islamic. Any Islamic follower who speaks out or protests is deemed unIslamic.

"I also dare not to comment too much, otherwise I will be declared as unIslamic," he said.

He said Jais should refer to the Quran in terms of dealing with individuals who had been converted to Islam but wanted out.

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He said the key to resolving such issues was a deeper and better understanding of the Quran.

He also said if people were strong in their faith, then there would not be issues with lesbians and gays.

"These people follow their lust and emotions instead of religion. If they were more religious and understood the Quran, they would not be gays."

He said besides those who followed lust, there were also many fanatical youth who went to the extent of blowing themselves up.

"Where does it say in the Quran about blowing up Muslims or non-Muslims? These youth are too easily influenced by the teachings of others."

He said those who took selective parts of the Quran and adapted them to suit their needs found it easy to incite youth to become fanatics.

Jais's raid at the Hindu temple have been condemned by the Malaysia Hindu Sangam, the Bar Council and the Hindu Rights Action Force (Hindraf).

It is the second time this year Jais has been mired in controversy following its raid on the offices of the Bible Society of Malaysia in January, and seizure of more than 300 copies of Alkitab and Bup Kudus (Iban Bibles).

Similar to last weekend's incident, Jais claimed they were acting under the Non-Muslim Religions (Control of Propagation among Muslims) Enactment 1988. – June 4, 2014.

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