

Selangor Sultan hits out at PAS MP for 'revoke Mais powers' comment

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Sultan of Selangor Sharafuddin Idris Shah has expressed his displeasure with a PAS lawmaker for questioning the powers of the Selangor Islamic Religious Council (Mais) and suggesting its executive powers be withdrawn.

The sultan said that although Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad was not a "Selangor born" he had been elected as a member of parliament in a constituency in the state, and so should have made an effort to learn about the history and laws in Selangor.

He said Khalid should have read the Selangor constitution and the Islamic Religion Administration enactment.

"The Shah Alam MP should not have questioned Mais' executive powers and suggested that the Pakatan Rakyat government abolish its executive powers.

"I am saddened and disappointed with this irresponsible statement," the ruler said in a speech to inaugurate a mosque in Sepang today.

Khalid had on June 26 called for the Enactment on Islamic Laws Administration (Enactment No. 3, 1952) and the Islamic Religion Administration Enactment 2003 to be reviewed at a press conference.

He made the call after Mais failed to follow the attorney-general's decision that the Iban-language and Bahasa Malaysia Bibles seized by the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) be returned to the Bible Society of Malaysia.

Earlier in Parliament, Khalid together with three other Selangor PAS MPs had made a similar demand.

"This is an organisation which does not even want to listen to anyone and this results in a 'government within a government' situation in Selangor," Khalid told a press conference in Parliament today.

"We, therefore, urge the Selangor government to unanimously review the enactment that allows Mais' executive powers and amend it where needed."

The sultan said through his actions, Khalid was being rude and questioned his position as the head of Islam in the state.

"This is not the first time he had questioned Mais' powers and the enactments governing Islam in the state which he considered out of date," the sultan said.

The sultan warned Khalid to be careful when he issued statements in the future about Mais and his role.

"I call on Khalid to be careful in future when he issues statements and not be rude and ignorant when discussing issues in relation to my powers and Mais' role in advising me about Islam," he said.

The sultan said Mais would always guarantee that followers of other religions were allowed to practise their faith freely as provided for in the Federal Constitution.

He said all the actions by Mais and Jais were to protect the sanctity of Islam but without disrupting the followers of other religions from practising their faith.

"I call on everyone not to use Islam as political fodder and politicians should be responsible when making statements about Islam to ensure that the unity of Muslims in Selangor is preserved," the Sultan said. - July 15, 2014.

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