

DAP tells Selangor MB to break silence over seized Bibles
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DAP wants Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim to break his silence and explain the status of the Malay and Iban-language Bibles that were seized from the Bible Society of Malaysia (BSM) early this year.

Selangor DAP deputy chairman Gobind Singh Deo said there had been a lull after the Sultan of Selangor last month ordered the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) to refer to a decision whether to return or dispose of

the Bibles to the state public prosecutor.

"Everyone is speculating on the subject and it is best for the Selangor Menteri Besar to offer an explanation to the public," he told The Malaysian Insider on the delay in deciding what to do with the seized Bibles.

Gobind (pic, left) said Khalid had been side-stepping the issue since Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail made a decision on the matter, and also after the Sultan of Selangor have his view.

Last month, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah's private secretary Datuk Mohamad Munir Bani said the decree was in line with the minutes issued by the Attorney-General's Chambers that "Jais has to act in accordance to the law on the issue of the seized Bibles".

"Jais should promptly refer it to the state public prosecutor for it to be brought to court for final determination," Mohamad Munir said in a statement.

On June 11, Gani said Jais had erred in seizing Bibles from BSM and ordered the case closed.

The A-G also noted that the 321 copies of the Alkitab (Malay Bible) and Bup Kudus (Iban-language Bible) were not a threat to national security.

Gani, saying he had reviewed facts and statements in the investigation papers, declared that there would be no prosecution and appeared to have ordered Jais to return the seized copies to BSM.

"We also took into consideration the Non-Islamic Religions (Control of Propagation among Muslims) Enactment 1988.

"In conclusion, it was decided that the seized books did not run foul of Section 9 (1) of the 1988 Enactment," he had said.

Gani said statements recorded from Home Ministry officials also indicated that the Bibles did not fall under their purview.

The saga of the seized Bibles began on January 2 when a Jais-led team raided the BSM offices in Damansara Kim, Petaling Jaya, before carting away the Bibles.

Then BSM president Lee Min Choon and office manager Sinclair Wong were detained and taken to the police station, before they were released on bail.

Jais conducted the raid under the 1988 enactment which was passed by the then-Barisan Nasional state government.

It prohibits non-Muslims in Selangor from using 35 Arabic words and phrases, including "Allah", "Nabi" (prophet), "Injil" (gospel) and "Insya'Allah" (God willing).

Soon after Gani's announcement, he was criticised by Malay right wing group Perkasa for his refusal to prosecute BSM for being in possession of the Bibles. -

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