

## **Ministry to reprimand schools that prevent non-Muslim students from wearing baju kurung**

**The Malaysian Insider**

**March 16, 2015**

**By Eileen Ng**

The Education Ministry will reprimand schools and teachers who disallow non-Muslim students from donning the baju kurung uniform, following a recent furore after a Cheras school sent a student home for wearing the uniform.

Education Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said there are no rules barring non-Muslim students from wearing the baju kurung uniform as stated in the ministry's circular on school uniforms.

"The ministry will reprimand and give advice to schools and teachers who barred non-Muslims students from wearing baju kurung to schools, in line with circular 3/1983 on school uniforms," he said in a written reply to Chua Tian Chang @ Tian Chua (PKR - Batu).

According to reports, the Sarawakian student was told by the authorities of a school in Cheras that she should wear a pinafore instead of a baju kurung as she was a non-Muslim.

The Form Three student was then sent home for failing to comply with the school's ruling.

Muhyiddin had said in January that there was nothing wrong with non-Muslims wearing the baju kurung as the traditional Malay dress for women was regarded as a national dress.

He urged the school concerned, SMK Seri Mutiara in Cheras, to rectify its dress code to avoid turning the problem into a racial one.

"I don't think it is right. The ministry will ask the school to correct this because a matter like this has now become construed as a racial problem.

"We don't want to make it racial. It may just be a misunderstanding or a decision made that is not in line with the ministry's stand," he had said then. – March 16, 2015.

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