

IGP's response to cross protest proves Najib's moderation a farce, says DAP
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The inspector-general of police's (IGP) swift dismissal of Sunday's protest against a church is the final blow for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's moderate image, DAP said today.

Its secretary-general, Lim Guan Eng, said the "disgraceful act of barbarism" by the "extremist Selangor Umno-led protesters" against a church in Taman Medan, Petaling Jaya, has made news around the world.

"The failure by the IGP to take stern action immediately has put an end to any talk of moderation at the international stage by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak," said Lim in a statement.

"The public questions the IGP's loyalty, impartiality and professionalism in absolving the protesters of any crime, just because his own brother was present among the protesters together with Umno Selangor leaders."

On Sunday, some 50 people gathered outside the new church, which is housed in a corner shop lot, to demand that the cross affixed to the building be removed.

One of the Umno leaders present at the protest was Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar's older brother, Datuk Abdullah Abu Bakar.

The protesters reportedly said the presence of a cross in a Muslim-majority area posed a challenge to the religion and could sway the faith of the youth.

The cross was removed by church leaders a few hours later.

Yesterday, Khalid said there was no element of sedition in the protest, as the demonstration was not against Christianity, but the location of the church in a largely Malay-Muslim neighbourhood.

"The barbaric act of Umno Selangor leaders and a brother of the IGP in forcing a church to take down a cross proves that the Sedition Act is used as a political weapon against PR and those who opposed BN, when either the IGP or the home minister alone can decide whether investigation will be done without fear or favour," said Lim today.

He said Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had tried to do damage control by confirming the protest was seditious, but Malaysians remained unconvinced.

"The public has no confidence in such play-acting and sandiwara, or that the home minister is genuine in upholding the law when the IGP is more protective over his own

brother.

"The home minister can only prove that he is sincere and genuine about protecting the fundamental rights of freedom of religion of non-Muslims by asking the IGP to step down temporarily until the police investigation over this seditious case involving the IGP's brother is completed."

This morning, a group of former Malay high-ranking civil servants said religious extremists would be encouraged to trample on the rights of Malaysians of other faiths should no action be taken against the protesters.

The group, dubbed G25, said it would also prove to the international community that Malaysia was no longer a country where racial harmony reigned and religious freedom practised. – April 21, 2015.

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