

**Refusal to act on Ibrahim Ali shows Putrajaya's indifference to E.Malaysia, says Guan Eng**  
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**BY HIMANSHU BHATT**

Putrajaya's non-action on Datuk Ibrahim Ali over his bible-burning call has cast doubts whether the views of Sabah and Sarawak leaders are given any importance compared to Umno supporters, says Penang chief minister Lim Guan Eng.

In making this assertion, Lim said the Attorney-General's failure to charge Ibrahim, who is president of a Malay rights outfit Perkasa, was due to the Cabinet's indifference towards the rights of non-Muslims.

He noted that little attention was given when Sabah State Assembly speaker Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak expressed his disagreement with former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's justification of Ibrahim's call.

The same also goes for Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem, who condemned the bible-burning remark, Lim said.

"This raises questions, whether Sabah and Sarawak's views are not important compared to the extremists in peninsular Malaysia supported by Umno," Lim, who is DAP secretary-general, said.

Ibrahim had during a Perkasa conference in Penang on January 19, 2013, reportedly called on Muslims to seize Bibles which had the term "Allah" and other Arabic religious terms, and burn them.

Lim described as "wholly ridiculous" that the Attorney General's Chamber's (AGC) explanation on October 27 that Ibrahim's call must be viewed in its entire context and that his statement was aimed at Bibles distributed to Muslim students of SMK Jelutong in Penang.

"Where is it stated under sedition laws that an exception can be made for a statement made with seditious tendencies merely because of the context it was viewed?" Lim said.

Referring to his own case in 1998, Lim said there was no defence against the sedition charge on him so long as a seditious tendency could be proved.

Lim said for defending a minor who was raped, he was convicted and imprisoned for 18 months under the Sedition Act.

"Why then was I convicted when I showed that my intention was to defend the purity of justice?" Lim said. "The AGC should charge Ibrahim Ali and let the courts decide if Ibrahim's defence of 'context' and 'intention' stands."

"Even though several Cabinet members have individually opined that Ibrahim Ali should be charged for trampling with impunity over the sensitivities of Christians, they have all passively submitted to Cabinet's decision to fully endorse the AGC's decision to let Ibrahim Ali escaped unpunished," he said.

He said this was highlighted by minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nancy Shukri, who is the de facto law minister and a Sarawakian, on October 7 "reading out" her written answer to Lim's question in Parliament justifying that Ibrahim would not be charged because he was merely defending Islam.

"Worse, she compounded that error of an answer with an even worse grievous error by stating that this is in line with the Federal Constitution," Lim said.

"So far, Nancy Shukri has not explained where in the Federal Constitution or in the Holy Quran is stated that burning Bibles is justifiable to defend Islam." – November 3, 2014.

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