

DAP criticises Dr M's 'perverse' logic in defending Perkasa
Malaysian Insider
Oct 30, 2014
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A veteran opposition leader today questioned the "perverse" logic of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in defending Perkasa's Bible-burning call.

DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang said Dr Mahathir was once again thumbing his nose at civil society by defending Perkasa president Datuk Ibrahim Ali.

"Is anyone surprised that Dr Mahathir is not conducting himself as a responsible elder statesman of Malaysia?" Lim said in a statement today.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir said calling for the Bible to be burned was not an issue as long as there were good intentions.

The former prime minister, who is a patron of Perkasa, added that Islam also allowed for the Quran to be burned or stepped on if it was no longer in use.

"We always burn the Quran when it is old and no longer in use. What is sure is that we cannot throw it around," Dr Mahathir had said.

"So, burning the Quran with good intentions is not a problem," he said when asked to comment on Ibrahim's call to burn Bibles containing the word "Allah".

Lim, the Gelang Patah MP, said this was an example of Dr Mahathir's classic perverse logic in believing that the end justifies the means – whether lies, sedition or even treason.

"Did Ibrahim act with 'good intentions' when he made the threat in Penang in January 2013 to burn the Bible? Was this in Dr Mahathir's context of the Quran 'no longer used'?"

Lim said it was unbecoming of the country's longest-serving prime minister to aid and abet irresponsible, extremist and incendiary acts like Ibrahim's threat to burn the Bible.

"Perhaps Dr Mahathir cannot see the big difference between a Muslim advocating the burning of the Quran because it is no longer used and the inflammatory calling for the burning of the sacred books of another religion, whether by a Muslim or non-Muslim.

"Does Dr Mahathir want Malaysia to be plunged into chaos or go up in flames with Muslims freely calling for the burning of the Bible or holy books of other religions

whether Tripitaka for Buddhism, Vedas for Hinduism or Guru Granth Sahib for Sikhism, or non-Muslims calling for the burning of the Quran?" Lim asked.

Lim said Dr Mahathir's comments should not come as a surprise to Malaysians as the former prime minister could see nothing wrong during his tenure leading the country.

"There was Ops Lalang in 1987, the subversion of an independent judiciary, degradation of a world-class educational system, rampant corruption, cronyism and abuse of power," Lim said.

Furthermore, Lim said, did not Dr Mahathir commit treason during his tenure as prime minister by approving Project IC or Project M to swamp Sabah with illegal immigrants?

On Monday, the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) in a statement said Ibrahim's call for Bibles to be burned must be viewed in its entire context.

It added that the Perkasa chief's statement was aimed at the Bibles being distributed to Muslim students of SMK Jelutong in Penang.

"As decided by the court, before a statement is said to have seditious tendencies, the statement must be viewed in the context it was made.

"When studied in its entire context, Datuk Ibrahim's statement is not categorised as having seditious tendencies.

"It was clear Datuk Ibrahim Ali had no intention to create religious tensions, but was only defending the purity of Islam," the statement said.

The AGC said that the Bibles distributed outside the school could have threatened the faith of Muslim students if they had read the holy books.

Ibrahim's call last year to burn the Bibles containing the word "Allah" sparked outrage among Christian groups and politicians, with critics accusing Putrajaya of employing double standards in its use of the Sedition Act.

De facto law minister Nancy Shukri also came under fire when she said in her written parliamentary reply on October 7 that Ibrahim had not been charged as he was defending Islam.

She told critics that she had replied on behalf of the Attorney-General, and that the Cabinet could not meddle in the issue. – October 30, 2014.

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/dap-criticises-dr-ms-pervers-e-logic-in-defending-perkasa#sthash.EtpWTgz8.dpuf>