

BN rep admits planning to target Sivarasa over mosque speech

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Halimaton Saadiah Borhan says plan involved various NGOs highlighting issue daily, before she makes her comment.

PETALING JAYA: The issue of PKR's R Sivarasa allegedly delivering a speech in a mosque took an unexpected turn today when Barisan Nasional's (BN) Kota Damansara assemblywoman Halimaton Saadiah Borhan admitted she planned the expose with several NGOs.

Asked to elaborate, Halimaton said she would let the NGOs comment first and "at the end I will speak because I am in the midst of planning this thing".

"Actually, I had planned with the NGOs to bring up this issue every day and then make my comments at the end," she told FMT.

Halimaton won the Kota Damansara seat after PAS forced a 3-cornered fight in the last general election which resulted in the defeat of the incumbent, Parti Sosialis Malaysia chairman Dr Nasir Hashim, who stood on the PKR logo.

The presence of Sivarasa, who accompanied PKR's coordinator for Kota Damansara Radzlan Jalaludin, at Masjid An-Nur in Kampung Melayu Subang drew protests from several NGOs and local residents who urged the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) to take action.

The NGOs included Kesatuan Melayu Nasional (KMN), Permuafakatan Ayahanda-Ayahanda Semalaysia (Permas) and the Selangor Consumers and Public Complaints Organisation (PAMPS).

Sivarasa had explained that he only delivered Ramadan greetings to the congregation and joined Radzlan to hand over contributions valued at RM71,000 to the mosque.

"I had also expressed my confidence in the commitment of the Selangor government to continue supporting mosques and suraus in Selangor," he was quoted as saying in Berita Harian today.

Meanwhile, Radzlan reiterated that Sivarasa did not make any speech with a political message.

"He gave a brief speech, saying he fully supported the state government's commitment to develop religious institutions, especially mosques and suraus," he said.

Radzlan advised critics to stop aggravating the situation, adding he was ready to cooperate with the authorities.

“We will give our full cooperation if we are called to give an explanation by the relevant authorities. We don’t want this matter to be sensationalised by irresponsible parties,” he said, adding that the congregation at the mosque had not objected in any way to the presence of Sivarasa on the day in question.

The mosque’s officials declined comment when approached by FMT, saying the matter was under investigation.

“I’m not allowed to say anything because only Jais can make a statement. Sivarasa just made a brief speech,” said Mesni Mohd Dahlan, who is the mosque’s steward.

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