

Headline	Gay rights festival and sex guide banned		
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# Gay rights festival and sex guide banned

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Royal Malaysia Police yesterday banned any functions organised by any group relating to the 'Seksualiti Merdeka' programme in the interest of public order.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Khalid Abu Bakar said police had identified and would call everyone involved including former Bar Council president Datuk S.Ambiga to record their statements.

"Police will take action under Section 27 A (1) (C) as well as 298 A of the Penal Code to prevent any function relating to the programme," he told a media conference, here yesterday.

He said the law in the country did not recognise any deviationist activity that could destroy the practice of religious freedom.

"Police received many protests from non-governmental organisations including Islamic and non-Islamic organisations who feared that the programme could create disharmony, enmity and disturb public order," he said.

Merdeka Seksualiti 2011, the

five-day programme which started two days ago at the Annexe Galeri, Central Market here, among other things called for equal rights for the homosexual and transsexual groups such as the gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersexual and transgender groups.

Khalid said two police reports had been received so far urging the police to take action against those for trying to organise the programme which jeopardised public order.

"Based on the reports and investigation, we will call them up to give them advice. Firstly, we advise them not to proceed with the programme. If they are adamant, we will not hesitate to detain them (organisers) including those who participate," he said.

He said police urged members of the public not to participate in the programme as it could disturb public order.

"Beginning today, we will stop whatever event carried out by the organisers and I advise members of the public not to attend any of the programmes organised by this group.

"The Bar Council should advise the organisers that their action is against the law. I don't understand why they (Bar Council) did not explain to them (on the offence)," he said.

Khalid said as a national security agency, the police were responsible for public order and they should tackle any threat much earlier.

"Police are not against any human rights to express their opinion. But when this (programme) crops up and threatens national security, we have to take action," he said.

The Deputy Director-General of the Malaysian Islamic Development Department, Razali Shahabudin said the programme could have negative effects and raise the risk of HIV and Aids infection among Malaysians.

He said in a statement that such activities were also against the norms and lifestyle of the people of various religions in the country.

The Director-General of the Institute of Islamic Understanding (IKIM) Datuk Nik Mustapha Nik Hassan said the programme was

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clearly uncivilised and deviated from human behaviour and degraded human being as being worse than animals.

In SHAH ALAM, Umno information head Datuk Ahmad Maslan said it was more appropriate for the Seksualiti Merdeka programme to be known as deviationist sexuality and it tainted the word 'merdeka'.

Ahmad, who is also Assistant Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, said sexual liberty, such as gay and lesbianism not only went against Islamic teachings but also the teachings of other religions.

"Don't be bound to the Western ways which legalised homosexuality, same sex marriages...going against the norms of the country which made Islam as the Federal religion," he told reporters after opening a seminar here.

Meanwhile, the government has banned an "Islamic sex guide" by a controversial group that reportedly urges Muslim men in polygamous marriages to have group sex with their wives, a

report said Thursday.

The book was published by the Muslim "Obedient Wife Club", which was formed earlier this year and has sparked controversy with its radical suggestions on sex and marriage in the country.

The Home Ministry has banned the book, titled "Islamic Sex, Fighting Jews to Return Islamic Sex to the World" with immediate effect, The Star daily reported.

It cited Abdul Aziz Mohamad Nor, a top official in the ministry's publications division.

Abdul Aziz was quoted as saying the book, the existence of which was first reported last month, was banned because of the wife club's links to the outlawed group Al-Arqam.

Some people from the Obedient Wife Club and related organisations are former members of Al-Arqam, a Malaysian-based Islamic sect that was banned in the country in the 1990s as a deviationist cult.

Those found in possession

of the book face fines of 50,000 ringgit while anyone caught reproducing it can be jailed up to three years, The Star reported.

Abdul Aziz could not immediately be reached by AFP.

The wives' club caused a stir earlier this year by calling on women to be "whores in bed" to prevent their men from straying and pursuing divorce.

Media reports have said the book suggests Muslim husbands have sex with all their wives simultaneously.

One chapter, "How Sex Becomes Worship," reportedly contains unusually explicit sexual descriptions for a Malaysian publication, such as a tutorial on breast-fondling.

Open discussion of sex is frowned upon in Malaysia, which regularly bans books deemed to be obscene or offensive to Islam.

Club organisers have previously said the book was exclusively for its members and was not intended for general distribution and thus should not be banned.-Bernama/AFP