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Chua dares DAP leaders to speak up over church raid

PETALING JAYA: DAP leaders were lambasted for their initial silence over the Selangor Islamic Religious Department's (Jais) raid on a multi-faith dinner held at the Damansara Utama Methodist Church Dream Centre.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek, who had challenged DAP to show political courage by condemning the raid, described its silence as a letdown for the Christian community.

"(DAP) leaders are notoriously famous for calling on Barisan (Nasional) leaders to resign over the flimsiest incident. But (they) have been strangely quiet over the past 24 hours (after the incident on Wednesday night)," Dr Chua said in a statement here yesterday.

He said if the party could not be trusted to speak up against Jais and PAS, there would be no hope for its followers and supporters.

"The church raid has shown how impotent DAP can be in the face of a crisis. It is prepared to compromise its principles for political expediency.

"What has happened to Teresa Kok, Ronnie Liu, Ean Yong, Tony Pua and Hannah Yeoh? Have they become apologists?" asked Chua.

DAP party adviser Lim Kit Siang only expressed his views on the matter in his blog yesterday.

Meanwhile, Selangor MCA chief Datuk Donald Lim said mutual respect for one another's faith had helped Malaysia triumph over

several clashes in the past.

"There is no denying that our country is a Muslim majority country and (the fasting month) for Muslims is also a time for the purification of the mind.

"Therefore, I urge all, regardless of religion and beliefs, to maintain a harmonious environment in our country in the spirit of unity and understanding," said Lim.

MCA secretary-general Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha said the raid had revealed PAS' true colours in a multi-racial country and as part of Pakatan Rakyat, DAP should be held responsible for its partner's actions, which could disrupt racial harmony.

"DAP has misled the Chinese into believing that PAS was a better option.

"I hope this will make the Chinese realise that PAS is out to impose its Islamic agenda on our multi-racial society," he said.

Kong, who said he had known DUMC senior pastor Dr Daniel Ho from secondary school in Ipoh, vouched that the church had never harboured any ill intention.

"In fact, it is very active in social and welfare work, including rehabilitating drug addicts and raising public awareness on HIV/AIDS," he said.

Gerakan Youth chief Lim Si Pin said people might not feel safe in their homes if Jais was allowed to barge into private property.