

4.2 The “Eating in Bathroom” Issue

One of the ethnic related issue that circles the media happened during the Ramadhan season last two years. News dated 24th July 2013 shocked the entire nation when non-Muslim students of SK Sri Pristana School were forced to eat in the bathroom to give way for their Muslim classmates to fast. This major problem stirs great uproar among the parents as well as related authority as it clearly violated the students’ right as well as the Islam religion itself. The segregation were viewed as unhygienic and parents even wrote to the school authority. At the end of the week, it was revealed that the students ate their meals in the school’s changing room and not in the bathroom. The school came up with a reason to such drastic action because the canteen was too small to cater to the needs of the other non-Muslim students.

4.3 The “Baju Kurung” Issue

Another ethnic related issue that surround the media happened quite recently. Previously on the 15th January 2015, a girl by the name of Britney Nicole was forced to leave at the very beginning of her lesson as she wears a *baju kurung* to school. SMK Seri Mutiara Cheras emphasised that dress code for Muslim and Non-Muslim are different from one another whereby the Muslim girls wear *baju kurung* with the *tudung* while the non-Muslim can only wear the pin mode. According to Nicole and her father, she did not faced such problem when she was in her previous school. At the end of the day, the problem as asserted by Nicole’s father was reviewed and was dealt professionally whereby the school authority gave permission to Nicole wear her *baju kurung* again when she is back to school.

4.4 The “RM250 Conversion” Issue

This issue had created a recent dispute especially among the victim’s parents. Happening just on the 28th of March 2015, the proselytization which is the act of forced conversion was proven to violate the 13-year-old student’s constitutional rights as well as religious freedom. The form one student of SMK Lutong was lured to a house where she was allegedly made to recite a Muslim prayer. She was later given RM250 in cash which inclusive of a prayer scarf. Apart for the incident above, she was also constantly harassed by two religious teachers which indirectly disrupted her studies. Pertaining to this issue, the state Minister of Education, Datuk Fatimah Abdullah made her statement and drastic actions were taken towards the irresponsible teachers.

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