

'US envoy should apologise'

'UNJUSTIFIED': Yun should respect Malaysia's sovereignty

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UNITED States ambassador Joseph Y. Yun should apologise and retract his remarks relating to the retention of the Sedition Act 1948.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (politics and government) Professor Dr Jayum Jawan said Yun's remarks were out of line and unjustified.

"As the US ambassador to Malaysia, he should respect our country as a host and not criticise it publicly. It is rude."

The envoy, in an interview with an online news portal on Saturday, said the US was puzzled with Malaysia's decision to retain the act.

"If he has any queries or dissatisfaction, he can contact the Malaysian government instead of making remarks to the media, especially to pro-opposition media.

"He should know better as a diplomat. This shows immaturity on his part as an ambassador, who is navigating the biggest embassy in Southeast Asia," said Jayum, who is the National Council of Professors (Politics, Security and International Affairs Cluster) deputy head.

He said Yun should explain him-

self "as he has embarrassed our country".

Professor Datuk Abdul Halim Sidek of Universiti Kelantan Malaysia, meanwhile, said Yun had intervened in Malaysia's internal affairs, "which has nothing to do with him nor his country".

"As an outsider, this is undiplomatic. We don't comment about their (US) policies because we respect them as a nation and our counterpart.

"No country can tell us what to do in running our democratic independent and sovereign state."

Halim said in the spirit of the United Nations, no countries should be allowed to make unwanted statements about other nations.

He said Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman summoning Yun to explain the US' position on the matter as "right as Yun violated the diplomatic relationship between the two countries".

"If he doesn't like it, he can discuss the matter and get information from the Malaysian government through proper channels rather than commenting about it."

Universiti Sains Malaysia's Faculty of Social Sciences deputy dean Associate Professor Dr Sivamurugan Pandian agreed with Halim, saying Yun should have met the government to understand its decision.

He suggested Wisma Putra hold briefings for diplomats or representatives.

"The briefings are important to ensure that the issue is not manipulated by parties out to tarnish the image of Malaysia."