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Bishop welcomes inter-faith discussions

PENANG, Fri. - Catholic Bishop Anthony Selvanayagam of the Penang Diocese today welcomed a proposal for an inter-faith discussion.

He said the proposal could help check any misunderstanding or ignorance among the people of each other's religion.

"I am all for the discussion which should be for the good of all," he said when asked to comment on Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya's recent proposal for a series of inter-faith discussions between Muslims and non-Muslims here in August.

Dr Hilmi, who is also State Islamic Religious Council president, said Universiti Sains Malaysia vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dzul kifli Abdul Razak has also agreed to organise the discussions.

Lending further support to the proposal, Selvanayagam said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's meeting with the Pope earlier this month should pave the way for inter-religious dialogues in the country.

He said numerous issues on current events, including women's role in the various socio-economic activities, as suggested by Dr Hilmi, could be discussed.

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