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Doctored picture of Dr M hurtful to Christians

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Council of Churches Malaysia today said doctored pictures of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a high priest was not only distasteful but also hurtful to Christians.

Council general secretary Rev Dr Hermen Shastri said such tactics only showed insensitivity on the part of those who resorted to politicising religious differences.

"The Council of Churches views with great concern the use of Christian symbols to campaign in the by-election in Pendang and Anak Bukit," Shastri said in a statement.

Malaysians, he added, should learn not to be frivolous with symbols and practices of other religions as it would accentuate misunderstanding and cause intolerance.

Shastri said the police should take immediate action against those who used such tactics to ensure it was not repeated in the future.

Last Tuesday, Dr Mahathir said it was horrendous for Pas to distribute posters of him clad in a robe wearing a cross and the words Mahathir Paderi Besar Gereja (High Priest Mahathir).