

Sultan: Insufficient evidence for prosecution in Jais raid
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Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah today said there were attempts to subvert the faith and belief of Muslims during a function at the Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) during Ramadan.

Despite this, legal action cannot be taken because of lack of evidence, said the sultan in a statement faxed to the press.

The Selangor Islamic Affairs Department (Jais) had raided a thanksgiving function at the DUMC on Aug 3 and later investigated 12 Muslims who had been present that evening.

"Therefore, after carefully deliberating the report by Jais and after obtaining advice from religious authorities and legal experts, we are in agreement that there would be no prosecution against any party," said the sultan.

He said that he scrutinised the Jais report on the "search" carried out by Jais on the DUMC and was convinced that the department had acted correctly.

"We are satisfied that the actions of Jais were correct and did not breach any law enforceable in Selangor," the sultan added.

As for the 12 Muslims under probe, the ruler said they would be subjected to counselling sessions by Jais to "restore their belief and faith".

Do not subvert Muslim faith

Meanwhile, the sultan urged members of the public not to misconstrue or dispute Jais' actions before they knew exactly what happened.

He also expressed hope that from now on, there would be no more activities carried out with the purpose of spreading other religions to Muslims.

"The religion of Islam as practised in Selangor is one of tolerance. Muslims are always encouraged to respect the believers of other religions.

"However, persons or parties cannot take the opportunity to spread other religions to Muslims," he said.

The sultan said this was in line with Clauses (1) and (4) of Article 11 of the Federal Constitution and Selangor non-Islamic Religions (Control of Propagation Amongst Muslims) Enactment 1988.

He urged non-Muslims to protect their freedom of religion in Selangor with respect for the laws.

"This freedom has been practised in harmony in this state. We wish that this harmony, which has existed for a long time, will continue to exist.

"Protect your rights and religion and do not attempt to subvert the belief and faith of Muslims," he said