

**'Christian state': Revoke Utusan's permit, says MP**  
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**By Hazlan Zakaria**

An opposition MP wants the Home Ministry to revoke Utusan Malaysia's publishing permit for "false reporting" and for playing up a claim that Christian pastors had conspired to make Penang a Christian state.

utusan malaysia, malaysia negara kristian At a press conference in Parliament House, DAP's Jelutong parliamentarian Jeff Ooi demanded action by the home minister.

"I want Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein to use his powers and revoke Utusan's publication licence for causing tension and trying to pit the religions against each other. You cannot protect the liars," urged the MP.

Ooi said the Umno-owned Malay daily had reported information from pro-Umno blogger Big Dog Dot Com without attempting to verify the truth of the claim.

"They took mentah-mentah (at face value) the entry from Big Dog."

The ministry's recent written parliamentary reply to Kulim-Bandar Baharu MP Zulkifli Noordin stated that after an investigation under the Section 41(a) of the Sedition Act, "there is no firm evidence" of any such conspiracy, and that the Attorney-General's Chambers had filed the investigation papers as requiring 'no further action'.

The controversy broke after Utusan in a May 7 report claimed that several pastors and Ooi (left) were plotting to make Christianity the country's official religion.

This was based on a dinner held in conjunction with a conference organised by the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship, Global Day of Prayer, Marketplace Penang and Penang Pastors Fellowship on May 5 and 6.

Ooi, the Christian clergy and the Penang state government have vehemently denied the accusation.

However, former DAP member Mohamed Razali Abdul Rahman still insists that the "Christian state plot" exists, warning "certain quarters" against confusing the people by denying the alleged 'Christian conspiracy' he had had exposed.

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