

Bishop hails 'bold trio' for anti-Himpun stance

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By Terence Netto

Catholic Bishop Dr Paul Tan Chee Ing today hailed PAS, PKR supremo Anwar Ibrahim and MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek for "taking sane stances in the face of deliberate attempts to stoke anti-Christian hysteria."

The head of the Catholic Church for the Melaka-Johor diocese, reached in Bangkok where he is attending a meeting of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference, said:

"I've been following the developments in Malaysia on the internet and would like to salute PAS for declining to be involved in the upcoming rally in Shah Alam on Saturday."

NONEThe Jesuit-trained prelate, who is concurrently president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, added that "further, I hail Anwar Ibrahim (right) for having the courage to state there is no threat of Christianisation of Muslims in Malaysia and salute Dr Chua Soi Lek for boldness in expressing the view that the rally would heighten tensions between Muslims and Christians and for that reason should be stopped."

Bishop Paul said he was of the view that citizens wanting to gather together in a cause should not be prevented but "the Himpun rally appears headed towards stoking anti-Christian hysteria."

"Judging from the campaign waged by some sections of the mainstream media and blogs, you would think Muslims in Malaysia in droves are being covertly converted to Christianity," he said.

"This is only true in the fevered imagination of the Harussani Zakarias' of this country and not anywhere else," opined the bishop.

Irresponsible gov't deserves voters rejection

NONEHarussani Zakaria (left) is the Perak mufti who has periodically raised the alarums about Christianisation of Muslims in Malaysia.

"In all the history of Muslim-Christian relations since independence, I have never seen a government so casual and so irresponsible as to allow the fabrications this man has visited on the general population go by with impunity," lamented the prelate.

One of the speakers at the Himpunan Sejuta Umat this weekend is Harussani.

Bishop Paul Tan said Christian leaders have a duty to oppose evil.

"Any government this duplicitous, this craven in the face of the obvious troublemakers is a government deserving of the electorate's rejection," he asserted.