

Bishop: Hasan's 'striptease disclosure' won't wash
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By Terence Netto

Catholic Bishop Dr Paul Tan Chee Ing urged Hasan Ali to opt for "full rather than striptease disclosure" with respect to the video the former Selangor exco member for Islamic affairs claims he has on Christians proselytising Muslims.

Hasan earlier this week announced he would release excerpts of a video of an apostate Muslim couple, now returned to Islam, who he said would reveal details of methods employed by Christians to foment apostasy among Muslims.

"NONEI must say it has taken him a long time to produce this video," commented the head of the Catholic Church in the Melaka-Johor diocese in remarks made to Malaysiakini.

"If it's authentic, why release only excerpts of it?" queried Bishop Paul Tan (left).

"Hasan should make good on his long standing promise to show evidence of Christian proselytisation of Muslims by going for full rather than striptease disclosure," argued the Jesuit-trained prelate.

"Since August last year, Hasan has been on a hiding to nothing. Now he says he has a video but is only going to release excerpts of it. Why this striptease?" asked the bishop.

The now expelled PAS representative on the Selangor executive council went out on a limb last August when he claimed that he had evidence of Christian proselytisation of Muslims at a fund-raising dinner hosted at the Damansara Utama Methodist Centre at which Muslims were present.

Hasan's claim sparked a furore that only abated toward the end of last year when the Selangor sultan made a statement that suggested the evidence for the incidence of proselytisation at the dinner was ambiguous at best.

This development scarcely gave pause to Hasan who ratcheted the tempo of his campaign against alleged Christian proselytisation with provocative statements that led to his party, PAS, expelling him from its ranks.

Selangor Menteri Besar Khalid Ibrahim was then obliged to drop Hasan from the line-up of the state exco.

'Show the entire video'

Bishop Paul Tan said he was surprised that Hasan would be satisfied with showing "just excerpts of the video he says he has in his possession to make his point."

NONE"For a man of his academic rigour, I'm surprised that he thinks piecemeal disclosure is sufficient," he argued.

"He has not only to show the entire video but also produce the couple for questioning by a full court press before others can be convinced of the authenticity of his claims of devious means employed by Christians to proselytise Muslims," elaborated the bishop.

"It's a wonder he has not wearied of this charade. It has gone on long enough for him to have shown the evidence of his inflammatory claims.

"He has not done so and from the looks of it will continue to titillate rather than satisfy a skeptical public,"

he asserted.

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