

**Mutual Respect Needed In Malaysia**  
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I do not understand the intentions of the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (JAIS) authorities in their raid on the muhibbah thanksgiving dinner charity event held at Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) which they had claimed was being used to convert Muslims.

According to reports, the muhibbah dinner was held in a Christian building which was organized for people to attend it in the spirit of 1Malaysia and to appreciate and commemorate the efforts of all Malaysians. In my opinion, it does not make sense why an event which promotes the values of love, peace and harmony must be brought to the attention of JAIS.

Malaysia has a very diverse background of different cultures, and the different beliefs of the people has helped create a civilized country, therefore we must not allow any unreasonable or extreme methods when it comes to dealing with racial and religious issues. This can only destroy our long standing efforts in building a multi-racial way of life. Doing so will be in direct contrast to Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak's vision of 1Malaysia.

Since our independence, many religious and ethnic clashes have taken place over time. Thankfully our government, along with the help of the rakyat, a satisfactory solution has always been achieved. In a country such as ours, we must mutually respect each other so as not to live up to our forefather's painstaking efforts in laying the foundations of this country. If there were a lack of tolerance and understanding between the different ethnic groups, Malaysia would not be the prosperous and peaceful country that it is today.

There is no denying that our country is a Muslim majority country, and that now is the fasting time for Muslims which is also a time for the purification of the mind. Therefore I urge all Malaysians, regardless of religion and beliefs, to continue maintaining the harmonious environment of our country in the spirit of unity and understanding of each other.

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