

Raid On Church Uncalled For, Says MCA
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- The raid by Selangor State Religious Department (JAIS) enforcement officers on the Damansara Utama Methodist Centre where a multi-racial dinner was taking place has been described by MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek as "most uncalled for and disrespectful".

He said even if there were suspicions or complaints, the officers should have waited until the event on Wednesday night was over.

Dr Chua said the department, which comes under the charge of state executive council member from PAS, Datuk Dr Hassan Ali, had a lot of explanation to do and that he should apologise for the encroachment into the church premises and poor handling of the situation.

"The incident serves as a reminder that PAS is not as liberal as it claims to be," he said in a statement Thursday.

Dr Chua said PAS was always ready to impose its religious will on others, and this was contrary to the principles of freedom of worship as enshrined in the constitution.

His sentiments were shared by MCA vice-president Gan Ping Sieu, who said the raid brought to the fore the Pakatan Rakyat coalition's narrow-mindedness and parochial inclinations.

Meanwhile, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim said JAIS had been asked to prepare a report on the incident.

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