

**Khalid: 'Hearing working group' to report to Sultan on Jais raid**  
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**By Shannon Teoh**

SHAH ALAM, Aug 24 — Selangor has insisted that there is no conflict with the Sultan over the formation of what it now calls a "hearing working group" to end the raging debate over a recent raid on a church by state Islamic authorities.

Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim told reporters today that the group, comprising himself, the state mufti and deputy mufti would meet both the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) and representatives from the Harapan Komuniti NGO tomorrow before presenting their findings to the state's Ruler.

When quizzed by reporters about the full probe that the PKR-led administration ordered from Jais, the menteri besar said that the state's Islamic authorities would present it to the working group tomorrow and not directly to the Sultan.

"[I]t will come from us," Khalid said when asked who will report to Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

Selangor backtracked late yesterday over the formation of its Syura council after the palace expressed its displeasure, downgrading it to a "hearing committee".

The state government announced on Monday the formation of a Syura advisory council, on the advice of the state ruler, but the Sultan's private secretary Datuk Mohamad Munir Bani told The Malaysian Insider that the monarch made no such suggestion and was now "shocked and angry".

Khalid told reporters today, however, that there was no rift between him and the Sultan as he "prayed with him several times yesterday."

"Tuanku is right and we don't want a conflict with the role of the Selangor Islamic Religious Council (Mais). We just corrected the error. The purpose is to find a solution, not to raise even more issues," he said referring to the body that oversees Islamic policy in the state.

The Pakatan Rakyat (PR) administration will meet both Jais and the NGO that does work on AIDS, for an hour each tomorrow starting at 2pm.

Jais entered the spotlight earlier this month when it raided the Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) in Petaling Jaya during a dinner function.

The incident drew condemnation from lawmakers and Christian leaders, re-igniting a religious tension that the Najib administration has been struggling to quell since the "Allah" row.

Jais denied, however, that it had raided the church, insisting instead that it had merely conducted an "inspection" to investigate a complaint that 12 Muslims were present during the function.

Although the state government ordered Jais to present a full report on its actions, Mais,

which oversees the enforcement body, has insisted that it reports directly to the Sultan on matters of religion.

Selangor executive councillor in charge of religious affairs Datuk Hasan Ali also backed the department, claiming that proof of proselytisation had been found and pointing out that such activities were prohibited under the law.

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