

Harapan Komuniti says had 'good' meeting with Selangor hearing panel
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SHAH ALAM, Aug 25 — Non-governmental organisation Harapan Komuniti said today it had a "good" meeting with the Selangor government's hearing working group over a controversial church raid by state Islamic authorities.

The NGO — which organised a fund-raising dinner at the Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) in Petaling Jaya on August 3 — said previously it featured prayer, religious songs and a quiz on Islam at the function, but denied it was aimed at converting the Muslims present.

"We just had a good meeting," Harapan Komuniti lawyer Datuk Kenny Ng told reporters today, after emerging from an hour-long meeting with the panel comprising Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim, state Mufti Datuk Setia Mohd Tamyas Abd Wahid and deputy state Mufti Datuk Abdul Majid Omar.

"We trust the good sense and good will of all people concerned," he added, refusing to answer further questions from scores of reporters.

Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) director Marzuki Hussin also did not comment on his meeting earlier today with the working group.

Khalid's political secretary Faekah Husin said the menteri besar's office would issue a statement in due time.

Khalid said yesterday that the group would present its findings on the contentious raid to the state's Ruler after meeting Jais and Harapan Komuniti representatives.

The menteri besar has also said that Jais would present its full probe on the raid to the working group today, and not directly to the Sultan.

Harapan Komuniti recently said it had no ties with DUMC and stressed that the church hall only served as a venue for its dinner.

The raid of the evangelical church drew condemnation from lawmakers and Christian leaders, re-igniting 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.

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

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