

Selangor Sultan Did Not Suggest Setting Up Of Consultative Council
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SHAH ALAM, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah today stated as untrue, the statement by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim that he had suggested the state government set up a consultative council to resolve the Jais-church issue.

Abdul Khalid had stated in a statement yesterday that the idea for a Syura council to resolve the issue had come from the Sultan during their discussion on the matter last week.

The issue involved the Selangor Islamic Religious Department's (Jais) investigation on the Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) on Aug 3 over alleged proselytising of Muslims who attended a dinner function organised by the church.

The Sultan's private secretary, Datuk Mohamad Munir Bani, explained in a statement issued here today that what happened during the meeting was that Abdul Khalid informed the Sultan that he intended to call and meet with DUMC representatives.

This, according to Khalid, was to get clarification from DUMC on Jais' investigation on the church and he also proposed to bring along Selangor mufti Datuk Mohd Tamyas Abdul Wahid to the meeting, said Mohamad Munir.

He said in the statement: "D.Y.M.M. the Sultan of Selangor was not opposed to the Selangor Menteri Besar's intention to call for a meeting of the church representatives with the Selangor mufti, but His Majesty advised the Menteri Besar to also invite the deputy mufti (Datuk Abdul Majid Omar) to give advice on matters pertaining to Syariah rulings and did not at all touch on the issue of Jais' investigation on the church."

As such, he said, the claim that the Selangor Sultan had ordered or advised the state government to set up a Syura (consultative) council was not true.

Mohamad Munir said the Sultan had not consented to the setting up of such a consultative council or a dialogue on religion, as Selangor already had a State Islamic Religious Council, State Islamic Religious Department and State Mufti Department to oversee religious matters.

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