

**Jais' Investigation On Church Issue Still On
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SHAH ALAM, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) director Marzuki Hussin said the department was still in the process of completing its probe into its investigation on the Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) on Aug 3.

"There are witnesses who decline to cooperate by giving their statements to be recorded by us, causing a delay in completing our investigation on this case," he said in a statement issued here Thursday.

Marzuki said Jais needed to ensure that its case investigation was transparent and without being influenced by any quarters, and Jais also did not wish to hurry through but to carry out a thorough investigation.

"Jais needs to consider the interest of all parties involved in the case to ensure fairness.

"It also has to consider the sensitivity of the case to the Malaysian public, so Jais has to ensure that any decision made will take into consideration religious and societal interests, and the interest of the individuals involved.

"We assure that after our investigation is completed, we will decide whether to charge, given sufficient evidence, any party for the offence committed under the law or take any other appropriate action," he said in the statement.

Marzuki, who was accompanied by three Jais officers, however, declined to comment to the media on the case after tabling its report on its Aug 3 investigation at DUMC, before the Hearing Committee at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Building, here.

The Hearing Committee comprising Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, Selangor mufti Datuk Mohd Tamyas Abdul Wahid and his deputy Datuk Abdul Majid Omar also heard out Komuniti Harapan, a non-governmental organisation and organiser of the Aug 3 dinner function held at DUMC.

Yesterday, Abdul Khalid had said that the committee, after hearing out both sides, would submit a report to the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, on the matter.

Komuniti Harapan's four representatives, including a woman, and accompanied by two lawyers, Datuk Kenny Ng and Annou Xavier, finished tabling their report at 4pm.

Xavier told reporters that the meeting with the menteri besar went on well, while Ng said there was good sense, goodwill and good faith at the meeting.

One of the Komuniti Harapan's male representatives was seen donning a songkok while the woman wore a light blue "tudung" (headcover).

The media, however, were unable to get Abdul Khalid to comment on the hearing and were asked to leave the place by security guards.

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