

**Council of Churches welcomes apology by daily
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By Pauline Wong**

PETALING JAYA (Aug 24, 2011): The Council of Churches of Malaysia has welcomed the apology tendered by Malay language daily Sinar Harian over its 'Info' column yesterday, which alleged, among other things, that the Christian 'agenda' is to legalise prostitution and encourage moral degradation.

In describing it as a despicable piece of journalism, the council rapped the paper's lack of remorse.

"They have admitted that the information published in the article is inaccurate and erroneous. However, we note that there has been no expression of remorse," said its general secretary Rev Hermen Shastri in a statement today.

"The management and the editorial department of the paper must now prove the sincerity of their apology by publicly stating what measures they are taking to ensure that stories of this nature are never published again in their newspaper," he added.

The 'Info' column was the second part of Sinar Harian's article on the 'apostasy movement', which the daily wrote about in its 'Bicara Isnin' column.

It listed four items which it said are ways the Christians 'destroy the Muslims': encouraging free mingling between sexes, damaging moral values with wild activities, permitting prostitution as an occupation, and inserting negative, excessive and extreme elements in music to lead to heedlessness and negligence.

Sinar Harian printed an apology yesterday, which read: "We admit the error in the publication of 'Objectives of the Christian movement' in the Info column on page 9, edition Aug 23, 2011. The information published is not accurate. Therefore we retract the Info and apologise to all Sinar Harian readers, especially Christians, over the error committed."

Shastri said these accusations were inflammatory and offensive not just to Christians, but to all decent-minded and peace-loving Malaysians.

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