

Hearing committee to meet JAIS and Harapan Komuniti

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SHAH ALAM (Aug 24, 2011): The hearing committee headed by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim will be meeting with representatives from Selangor Islamic Religious Department (JAIS) and NGO Harapan Komuniti at the state secretariat here tomorrow.

Abdul Khalid said the committee will listen to both parties regarding issues surrounding JAIS' raid on a fund raising dinner organised by Harapan Komuniti at the Damansara Utama Methodist Church on Aug 3.

Two other committee members are Selangor Mufti Datuk Mohd. Tamyas Abdul Wahid and deputy Mufti Datuk Abdul Majid Omar.

"The sessions will be held separately and both JAIS as well as Harapan Komuniti will be given one hour each to present their side of the story," Abdul Khalid told reporters during a press conference after chairing the weekly executive council meeting.

The Selangor government had previously ordered JAIS to conduct a full probe of the incident and Abdul Khalid said the body will present its findings during the meeting tomorrow.

Asked on his expected outcome from the meetings, Abdul Khalid said: "The main thing is to listen to both parties. But one of the committee's responsibility is to submit a report from the meetings to the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah."

Abdul Khalid had on Monday announced the formation of a 'Syura Council' purportedly on the advice of Selangor Sultan but its name was changed earlier today to a hearing committee, after the latter had denied he proposed the idea.

"The state government has now decided to change the name to Hearing Committee to prevent any overlapping of functions with the Syura Council of the state government, which is headed by the Selangor Islamic Religious Council," said Abdul Khalid.

Selangor Sultan's private secretary, Datuk Mohamad Munir Bani in a statement yesterday said the Sultan had not consented to the formation of a Syura Council as the state already had a State Islamic Religious Council, State Islamic Religious Department and State Mufti Department to oversee religious matters.

The Sultan's denial had spurred reports of a conflict between Abdul Khalid and the Selangor Sultan.

Abdul Khalid however denied the matter, stating: "Our goal is to find a solution, not create more problems. And I was praying Maghrib, Isyak and terawih next to the Sultan yesterday."

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