

**Selangor Sultan's Statement Proof Of Attempts To Proselytise Muslims - NGOs
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- Various quarters regard the Sultan of Selangor's statement on the issue of Muslims' involvement in a thanksgiving dinner organised at a church premises in Petaling Jaya as proof of attempts to proselytise Muslims.

Hence, they are calling on the Malaysia Islamic Development Department (JAKIM) to draw up a standard operating procedure (SOP) for use by all state religious authorities in the country, so that action taken against such an activity will not be disputed by any group.

Ikatan Muslimin Malaysia (Isma) president Abdullah Zaik Abd Rahman, for instance, said the Sultan's statement gave confidence to the religious authorities to continue acting to protect the faith of Muslims, especially the younger generation, from being deviated by irresponsible groups.

He said the incident in Selangor should be a lesson for all parties, especially the religious authorities in the states to be proactive in tackling social problems faced by Muslims as these problems might contribute to weakening of their religious faith.

"Service quality should be good and the SOP, sound so that future actions will be more effective, and this is also to avoid wild accusations against the religious authorities by those trying to fault them," he said.

The Selangor Sultan in his statement Monday said he found that there were attempts to proselytise Muslims at the dinner function held on Aug 3 at the Dream Centre Complex in Section 13, Petaling Jaya, belonging to the Damansara Utama Methodist Church, after studying the investigation report by JAIS.

That night, officers from the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) checked on the venue and found some evidence showing attempts by the group to proselytise Muslims.

Malaysia Muslim Youth Movement (ABIM) president Amidi Abdul Manan said the Sultan's statement was rational and also showed compassion as enjoined by Islam.

"Tuanku's statement is meaningful for all as it was firm and brave in telling the truth on attempts to proselytise Muslims but at the same time, encouraged mutual respect to preserve religious harmony.

Amidi said JAIS' action, which was within its jurisdiction, had given a clear message to the group involved to respect Islam as the official religion of this country, as provided in the Federal Constitution, and not to repeat their offending action.

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