

**Use of Allah not a Christian conspiracy to convert Muslims, says DAP  
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BY JENNIFER GOMEZ**

The court's decision banning the word Allah from the Bahasa Malaysia section of Catholic weekly Herald could have wider implications on other Christian reading materials, an opposition politician warned today.

DAP's Serdang MP, Dr Ong Kian Ming (pic), said the grounds of judgment by the three judges implied that the ban could be easily extended to all Christian publications, including the Al-Kitab, or any other material printed in native languages.

"To say that the use of the word Allah is not an integral part of the faith and practice of Christianity shows a complete lack of understanding of Bumiputera Christian practices as they have been using the word in their prayers, songs and scriptures for generations," he said in a statement today.

Ong also hit out at Judge Datuk Mohd Zawawi Salleh who, he said, had done a great disservice to the Christian community by "liberally quoting Christian sources from outside Malaysia to explain that even some Christians did not agree to the use of the word".

"In liberally quoting sources, including an opinion piece by a Brutus Balan which appeared on a website run by Daniel Pipes, a well-known right wing US academic, as well as Fox News, is a great disservice upon himself," he said.

Ong also highlighted a point in Datuk Seri Mohamed Apandi Ali's judgment, saying it implied that the use of the word in the Herald was a potential threat to the peace and harmony which exists in Malaysia.

"This is despite the fact that such a threat has never surfaced in Sabah and Sarawak where Bumiputera Christians have been using the word for generations," Ong said.

The third judge, Datuk Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahim, meanwhile, had written in his judgment that the Herald could be read by anyone as it was available online.

The judge had further stated that "the permission given by the Home Ministry for the printing and publication of Al-Kitab in which the word Allah appears cannot be treated in the same manner as the printing and publication of the Herald with the usage of the word Allah".

"I wonder if the learned judge realises that the Al-Kitab in Bahasa Melayu is also available online?" said the MP, who also expressed sadness that many Muslims, including the judges presiding over the Allah case, saw the use of the word Allah in Christian publications as a conspiracy by Christians to convert Muslims.

"Allah has been used by Christians in Sabah and Sarawak for generations without any threat or mass conversions by Muslims into the Christian faith," said Ong. – October 15, 2013.

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/use-of-allah-not-a-christian-conspiracy-to-convert-muslims-says-dap>