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■ PETALING JAYA

DUMC maintains it did not break any laws

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THE Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) maintains it did not break any laws when hosting an appreciation dinner organised by non-governmental organisation (NGO) Harapan Komuniti at the church's Dream Centre in Jalan 13/1 on Aug 3.

In a statement to the Press yesterday, DUMC senior pastor Daniel Ho (*pic*) said: "We work within the boundaries of the law and public order, in accordance with the Scripture."

He also called for places of worship to be accorded their sanctity.

"We sincerely ask that all religious communities and places of worship be treated with utmost respect and not be intruded upon," he said.

In welcoming the statements made by the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, Ho also said DUMC served the community regardless of creed, race or religion.

Sultan Sharafuddin had said on Monday the Selangor Islamic Affairs Department (Jais) had acted in accordance with the laws when it conducted the raid on the DUMC Dream Centre.

The raid was conducted without a warrant, based on allegations there were attempts to proselytise Muslim guests present at the event.

The dinner was held to acknowledge the work of volunteers, leaders and supporters in helping women, children

and HIV/AIDS sufferers.

The Sultan also said that based on Jais' report, there was evidence of attempts to subvert the faith and belief of Muslims but it was insufficient for further legal action to be taken, therefore, the affected parties would not be prosecuted.

However, the Sultan had commanded Jais to provide counseling to Muslims at the dinner, to restore their belief and faith in Islam.

The Council of Churches of Malaysia had also deemed the Sultan's statement as a proper closure to the controversy surrounding the issue and had called on the public to cease further speculation on the matter.

Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim had announced a special task force will be formed to study Jais' standard operating procedure (SOP) when conducting inspections.

Selangor executive councillor for Islamic affairs, Malay culture and public facilities Datuk Dr Hassan Mohamed Ali had said the Sultan's statement indicated DUMC was guilty of attempting to subvert the belief and faith of Muslims.

