

Headline **Status unclear, so 10 didn't show up for Jais session**
Date **11 Aug 2011**
MediaTitle **New Straits Times**
Section **Local News**
Journalist **N/A**
Frequency **Daily**
Circ / Read **136,530 / 330,000**

Language **English**
Page No **6**
Article Size **226 cm²**
Color **Black/white**
ADValue **3,129**
PRValue **9,387**



Status unclear, so 10 didn't show up for Jais session

KUALA LUMPUR: Ten Muslims who attended a dinner at Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) last week did not turn up for a pre-counselling session by Selangor Islamic Affairs Department (Jais) on Tuesday.

This was because they were not clear about their status in the investigation.

Lim Heng Seng, advocate and solicitor for 10 of the 12 individuals, said Jais did not state the real purpose requiring his clients' presence — whether it was to attend as witnesses or suspects — in its Aug 3 Notice Orders.

Jais had raided the church last week.

Lim, who signed a press statement, said a letter had since been sent to Jais on Aug 8 seeking clarifications.

"Earlier this morning (yesterday morning), we received a letter dated Aug 10, 2011, from Jais replying to our letter of Aug 8, 2011.

"Jais informed us that they were investigating a case involving the offence of persuading, influencing or inciting a Muslim to change his faith under Section 4 of the Non-Islamic Religions Enactment 1988.

"We understand this to mean investigations under the Non-Islamic Religions (Control of Propagation Amongst Muslims) Enactment 1988 regarding the thanksgiving/fundraising event at DUMC's premises on Aug 3 organised by Harapan Komuniti."

He also clarified that he was solicitor for only 10 of the 12 individuals involved.

"Jais informed us that they were investigating a case involving the offence of persuading, influencing or inciting a Muslim to change his faith under Section 4 of the Non-Islamic Religions Enactment 1988.

"We understand this to mean investigations under the Non-Islamic Religions (Control of Propagation Amongst Muslims) Enactment 1988 regarding the thanksgiving/fundraising event at DUMC's premises on Aug 3, organised by Harapan Komuniti."

Media reports said Jais was seeking an arrest warrant on the 12 individuals for failing to turn up at Jais premises on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the organiser of the dinner, Harapan Komuniti has broken its silence over the raid.

Its executive director Raymond Koh said Harapan Komuniti had helped many needy Malaysian citizens without regard to race, religion or creed.

"Yet Jais took it upon themselves to disrupt a peaceful and harmonious charity event," he said.

"Harapan Komuniti is a non-profit organisation, working to bring love, hope, peace and dignity to the needy, downtrodden, children, women and people living with HIV and AIDS."

He said the Aug 3 dinner was attended by about 120 donors, friends and beneficiaries of Harapan Komuniti from various backgrounds.

They were treated to a meal catered by Muslims and offered a general prayer.

Meanwhile, Pemuda Umno is calling for Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim to step down if he continued to delay giving an explanation on the raid and hiding the truth from the people.

"In this matter, if the state's Muslim Affairs, Malay Customs, Infrastructure and Public Amenities Committee chairman Datuk Dr Hasan Mohamed Ali and Pas Youth are satisfied with Jais explanation, what is stopping the menteri besar from issuing an official statement on the incident?" asked its chief Khairy Jamaluddin.

He said Umno Youth was very serious about apostasy and conversion issues and would not compromise when it comes to religious faith.

"Therefore, we are demanding that the rakyat be given proof and a report on this incident must be disclosed.

"The Selangor state government must come forward and explain the raid by Jais on DUMC now. Any attempt to delay this is irresponsible and will only result in the nation's instability," he said.