



# MAJLIS GEREJA-GEREJA MALAYSIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF MALAYSIA

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**“A NEW CREATION”**

*A Revived Church and a Renewed Nation*

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## RESPONSE TO INVITATION TO DIALOGUE ON ALLAH ISSUE

In a newspaper report dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021, the Home Minister purportedly plans to initiate a dialogue between Islamic and Christians Scholars to resolve the issue concerning the use of the word “Allah”. In the case of **JILL IRELAND BINTI LAWRENCE BILL (PEMOHAN) DAN 1. MENTERI BAGI KEMENTERIAN DALAM NEGERI MALAYSIA 2. KERAJAAN MALAYSIA (RESPONDEN)**, the High Court has on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 ruled that Christians are allowed to use the word “Allah” in religious publications for educational purposes. We are, however, mindful that the government of Malaysia has filed the Notice of Appeal against the High Court decision on 15th March 2021.

With abundance of cautions, since the matter lies now in the Court of Appeal, we are of the view that it is highly inappropriate for the issue to be resolved through a dialogue initiated by the Home Ministry, who is one of the Appellants.

We reiterate that the Christian community in Malaysia, in particular those in Sabah and Sarawak has and always been willing to live in peace, harmony and mutual respect with communities of other religions.

ARCHBISHOP DATUK MELTER JIKI TAIS  
PRESIDENT

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Member Churches:** Anglican Diocese of Kuching · Anglican Diocese of Sabah · Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia · Basel Christian Church of Malaysia · Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia · Lutheran Church in Malaysia & Singapore · Mar Thomas Syrian Church · The Methodist Church · Chinese Annual Conference · Sabah Provisional Annual Conference · Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference · Sarawak Iban Annual Conference · Tamil Annual Conference · Trinity Annual Conference · Orthodox Syrian Church · Presbyterian Church in Malaysia · Protestant Church in Sabah · The Salvation Army ·

**Associate Members:** Bible Society of Malaysia · The Boy's Brigade in Malaysia · Girls' Brigade Malaysia · Interserve Fellowship · Malaysian Care · Mobilization Fellowship Malaysia · National Council of YMCA's · Seminari Theoloji Malaysia · Sabah Theological Seminary · YWCA · Prison Fellowship Malaysia ·

**Affiliate Member:** Coptic Orthodox Church ·