

**CHRISTIAN FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA
(PERSEKUTUAN KRISTIAN MALAYSIA)**

Address: 26, Jalan Universiti, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

Telephone: (03) 7957 1278, (03) 7957 1463, Fax: (03) 7957 1457

Email: cchurchm@streamyx.com

PRESS STATEMENT

**THE RIGHT OF NON-MUSLIMS TO USE THE WORD ALLAH
TO SPEAK OF ALMIGHTY GOD**

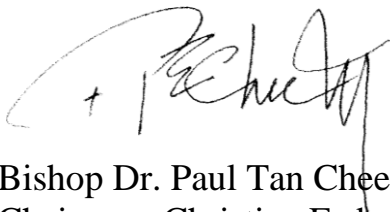
The Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) expresses its regret with the statement of the Honorable Minister in the Prime Minister's Departments, Y.B. Datuk Dr. Abdullah Zin, as reported in the newspapers (The Star and The Sun) of 4th January, 2008, that the Cabinet has decided that the restrictions of the use of the word "Allah" continues and cannot be used in non-Muslim publications.

It is wrong to prohibit usage of words which are of daily use by the Malaysian people, or, to say that certain sections of the public may not use a particular word in their daily prayers or in their publications.

We believe that the correct Bahasa Malaysia word to denote Almighty God is "Allah". It is a word of ancient lineage originating from the Middle East and used by both the non-Muslim and Muslim population for centuries there and in other parts of the world.

We hope that the government will, in recognition of its universal heritage, and in the context of Article 11 of the Federal Constitution allow its usage.

In any event the issue is pending before the High Court in two cases filed, which we hope will be decided justly and in accordance with the letter and spirit of the freedom of religion guaranteed under the Federal Constitution.



Bishop Dr. Paul Tan Chee Ing., SJ
Chairman, Christian Federation of Malaysia

27th August 2007