## CHRISTIAN FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA (PERSEKUTUAN KRISTIAN MALAYSIA)

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## CALL TO CHRISTIANS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS

We have read in the newspaper recently that over 4.9 millions potential voters in the country have not registered themselves. From among them, the majority seems to be young people.

For a healthy democracy to flourish, it is very important that citizens who are of age exercise their right to cast their votes and make a statement of conscience about their choice of leaders.

Christianity affirms that a government exists for the common good of all citizens. Hence, God's will also extend to include truth, freedom, justice and peace. The dignity of the human person, the respect of human rights and the commitment to common good, must be goals pursued by those elected to govern.

With full acknowledgement of stewardship, the CFM calls upon all priests/pastors/elders to encourage all their church members, especially the youth, to register themselves as voters by August.

Churches may also organise voting registration exercises at their premises if they so wish.

You may contact your state Election Commission Officer. For their address, please log onto www.spr.gov.my. Or, you may enlist the help of your MP or State assemblymen/women.

We treasure our system of parliamentary democracy, and for it to work, citizens should participate in the electoral process. It guarantees to the governed the possibility of both electing and holding accountable those who govern us.

Please do all that is necessary to ensure that Christians set the example, by exercising their right of conscience by voting for whichever individual or party they feel best represents their convictions and concerns.

Bishop Dr. Paul Tan Chee Ing, SJ

Chair, Christian Federation of Malaysia

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007

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