Majlis Perundingan Malaysia Agama Buddha, Kristian, Hindu, Sikh dan Tao

Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism

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**PETALING JAYA CREMATORIUM PRIVATISATION WILL BURDEN THE PUBLIC**

The Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism (MCCBCHST) refers with great concern the proposal by Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya (MBPJ) to privatize the Petaling Jaya City Crematorium located at Section 51, PJ after undergoing planned upgrade which is expected to cost RM8 to RM12million.

The Petaling Jaya mayor has said in media statement that MBPJ will continue to oversee the management of the facilities to ensure high-quality of service and that service charges will be regulated so that they remain reasonable, but this is no guarantee that prices will not increase beyond affordability in the future.

Priority of a business is to generate profit and thus no matter how strictly you regulate the charges there will always be justification made when seeking an increase in charges by a private operator and cost increased will be transferred to the public. This will burden the people especially those from the lower income segment of society at a time when high cost of living has continued to put pressure of quality of life.

When people are already paying taxes which provides substantial revenue to the government, shouldn't providing crematorium facilities be part of basic services provided by the Local Authority?

MBPJ must review their own management efficiencies in operating the crematorium instead of finding an easy way out by privatizing this basic public facility. The MCCBCHST therefore calls upon MBPJ to review its decision and drop this PJ Crematorium privatization plan.

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