

Controversial Sabah Pas rep appoints Christian as special officer

New Straits Times 11.10.2020



By [Avila Geraldine](#) - October 11, 2020 @ 3:50pm



Sabah Pas' appointed assemblyman, Dr Aliakbar Gulasan, has named Herman Obi (pic), who is a Christian, as his special officer in charge of inter-racial relations. - NSTP/Courtesy of Sabah Pas

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Pas' appointed assemblyman, Dr Aliakbar Gulasan, has named Herman Obi, who is a Christian, as his special officer in charge of inter-racial relations.

Aliakbar said 24-year-old Obi has been a member of Sabah Pas Supporters' Wing (DHPP) since 2016.

"Herman Obi's appointment is believed to be able to strengthen the relationship of the multiracial community in Sabah.

"This will thus prove Sabah Pas' seriousness in defending the welfare of the people, across races and religious beliefs," he said in a statement today.

He also said Obi holds a degree scholar from Universiti Malaysia Sabah and is currently Sabah DHPP secretary.

The appointment, rather than election, of a Pas representative to the state assembly received widespread objection and criticism from the majority of Sabahans, who strongly reject the party's ideology and alleged extremism.

Even allies Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) and Sabah's Parti Solidariti Tanah Airku (STAR) had said there was no need to appoint a Pas representative, as the party did not participate in the 16th state election.

Meanwhile, United Progressive Kinabalu Organisation (UPKO) president Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau said the failure of PBS and STAR to prevent the appointment was proof that both parties are unable to defend the way of life of Sabah's plural society.

"If they are unable to prevent this appointment, what more with fighting for our rights enshrined in the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) if they are just like buffaloes dragged by the nose by the 'Malayan' leadership.

"Therefore, we as Sabahans must unite to defend our tolerant, harmonious and respectful way of life between various races and religions. The people must speak up and stand together to ensure that we defend all of these."

Madius said several actions by Pas had hurt the feelings of Christians in the past, including a recent statement made by a party leader who claimed the bible is "distorted".

Another controversial move was the lodging of police reports to block Christmas celebrations in Tawau.

"The people of Sabah should be reminded of the struggles and intentions of our past leaders when they agreed to form Malaysia through MA63, which is the desire to preserve the culture and way of life of Sabah's plural society.

"That is why the... political culture that Pas is fighting for is not suitable, because our federal constitution is also championing a secular Malaysia due to its multiracial and multi-religious society," said Madius.