'Derhaka' reverberates in assembly sitting
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Echoes of the word derhaka (treachery) reverberated in the state assembly sitting today as BN and Pakatan Rakyat assemblyperson accusing one another of committing treachery against the institution of the monarchy.

The sitting was convened to amend Section 52(1) of the Selangor state constitution 1959 to return the powers to the sultan of Selangor and the menteri besar in the appointment of the state's top three civil servants namely the state secretary, state legal advisor and state financial officer.

The sitting came about after the state government refuted the appointment of state secretary Mohd Khusrin Munawi by the Public Service Commission.

Tabling the amendment, Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim spoke of the 1993 constitutional crisis and claimed that the federal government under the then prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad amended the federal constitution which, he said, had eroded the powers of the royal institution.

Abdul Khalid then asked: "Are we treacherous in wanting to restore the sovereignty of the state and the Sultan? Are they committing treachery if they reject or refuse to accept the amendment?"

Mohamed Azmin Ali (PKR-Bukit Antarabangsa), when debating the amendment bill, accused Umno of committing treachery against the sultan.

Opposition leader Mohamad Satim Diman (BN-Seri Serdang), however, interjected and said that it was Pakatan who committed the treachery.

Mohamad Satim then drew Mohamed Azmin's attention that at the time when the federal constitution was amended, PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim was a minister in Dr Mahathir's cabinet.

Earlier in his speech, Abdul Khalid said if the appointments of the state's top civil servants were not done in a transparent manner, it might be manipulated by certain parties.

Article 52(1) of the state constitution states that the appointment of the state's top three civil servants should be made by the service commission, which is the Public Service Commission.

The motion to amend the constitution was seconded by executive councillor Teresa Kok.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Azmin there was no personality clash between Pakatan assemblypersons and the federal government-appointed Mohd Khusrin.

Whoever appointed to the post should support the policies of the state government, he said.

"What we are feeling unease about is the omission of provisions for the role of the sultan of

Selangor and the menteri besar in the appointment of the three executive officers," he said.

- Bernama

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