

## **Noh calls Kit Siang 'old donkey' on 'Allah' issue**

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**By Radzi Razak**

Taking the 'Allah' debate to intellectual heights, Selangor Umno liaison chief Noh Omar today called DAP advisor Lim Kit Siang an "old donkey" for allegedly not understanding the legal issues surrounding the use of the word 'Allah' in Selangor.

Noh, a trained lawyer, said that Selangor is bound by the Enactment on Non-Islamic Religions (Controls on Propagation Among Muslims) 1988 which bars non-Muslims from using the word Allah, including in copies of the Bahasa Malaysia Bible.

"In Selangor, we have an enactment which is law, a fatwa which can be enforceable on the Allah matter, as well as a decree by the Sultan who wants the law enforced.

"So Lim and DAP clearly only want to politicise the Allah issue and make matter worse by twisting the facts and blaming the BN and Umno," he told a press conference today in Shah Alam.

Article 11(1) of the Federal Constitution provides that all Malaysians have a right to profess and practice his/her religion, but is bound by Article 11(4) - a ban on propagation of non-Islamic religions to Muslims.

Noh said that the enactment, a specific fatwa on the matter as well as the sultan's decree, backs the raid on the Bible Society Malaysia on Jan 2 and justifies criticism against Catholic priest Lawrence Andrew.

He said that the fatwa, gazetted Jan 27, 2010, states that non-Muslims are not allowed to use the "holy word that is Allah" in their religious rites.

"Why was Lim (right) blind, deaf and dumb when the menteri besar, who is from PKR, supported and adhered to the decree on the use of the word Allah by non-Muslims?

"Why is it that he (at the time) failed to point out that this was unconstitutional?" asked Noh, who is also Tanjung Karang MP.

'Three clever assemblypersons'

Instead of issuing press statements like someone ignorant of the law, Noh proposed that Lim take his grouses to court or lobby for an amendment to the enactment in the Selangor legislative assembly.

As such, he said, the three DAP assemblypersons who proposed an amendment to the enactment are "more clever" than Lim.

"Let them bring forth the proposal and amend it, it is their right. Do so, I challenge them. They are more clever than Lim. This is the right way," he said.

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