

Penang Pakatan holds emergency meet on Umno 'lies'
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Penang Pakatan Rakyat held an emergency meeting today to address the allegations that Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng's name was used in place of the Agong's in the state's Friday sermons.

NONEThe meeting, led by state PKR chairperson Mansor Othman (right), state DAP chairperson Chow Kon Yeow and PAS deputy commissioner II Rosidi Hussain, issued 10 pledges to reiterate the coalition's stand on Islam and various issues.

They condemned Umno's political games as 'nonsense', adding that only people who are "insane with ill intentions" would go so far as to replace Lim's name with the Agong's in the Friday sermons.

"We pledge our loyalty to the Agong, as head of the country according to Article 30 of the federal constitution, and as head of religion in Penang according to Article 5(2) of the state constitution," said the trio in a joint press conference in Komtar, Georgetown, today.

"We also pledge loyalty to the governor according to Article 1 of the state constitution; acknowledge Islam as the official religion of the state with others having the right to practise their religions freely," they added in the media event chaired by Lim.

NONEThe state Pakatan leaders also strongly denied and condemned Umno's allegations that Lim had ordered for his name to replace that of the Agong in the Friday prayers.

They also called for Umno to take action against that errant khatib or imam who had used Lim's name instead of the Agong.

They urged further that Penangites and Pakatan supporters remain calm and aloof from "Umno's trap" and not to be distracted from realising the benefits they are deriving from the Pakatan-led Penang government.

'Dirty politics during Ramadan'

The Pakatan leaders also ticked off Umno for indulging in malicious politics during the holy month of Ramadan.

"We condemn Umno's dirty politics in playing up the issue of name switching as malicious slander (fitnah yang jahat) during the holy month of Ramadan," they said.

The pledge follows Lim's as well as the state Islamic affairs department's vehement denial of the matter.

Deputy CM I Mansor yesterday explained that Lim's name did however crop up on occasion in the state's mosques, but only in supplications that Lim be shown the path to Islam.

Premier Najib Abdul Razak, meanwhile, has called for a probe into the matter, while Penang police today announced that a special team will be set up to investigate the matter.

On other matters, the Pakatan leaders reiterated the resolve to continue banning sports betting, and expressed their support for the announcement that the state will receive

RM400 as an Aidilfitri bonus for its 3,577 civil servants.

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