

NEW STRAITS TIMES

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# Nazri: Ruling applies only to certain states

KUALA LUMPUR: Non-Muslims in three states and the Federal Territories are allowed to use the word "Allah", Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz asserted yesterday.

He said that the condition would not apply in other states as they had their own Islamic law on the use of the word.

For instance, he said Selangor forbids non-Muslims from using the word Allah, *firman Allah*, *solat* and *Kaabah*, among other words.

"That is under the state law. But in Federal Territories, Penang, Sabah and Sarawak, there is no such law to stop them," Nazri, who is the minister in charge of law, said after launching an awareness campaign for public transport users here.

He said the Muslims in Sabah and Sarawak had no problems with the word being used by Christians because they understood it was part of their "customs and culture".

"In Iban and Kadazan families, there are Christians and Muslims in one family, they understand each other. It is their Malaysia. That is their culture. Let it be."

He noted that the customs in the peninsula were, however, different.

He added that action could be taken on those found using the word "Allah" in the nine out of the 11 states in the peninsula.

He also asked non-Muslims to consider the sensitivities of the use of the word "Allah" as many Muslims felt it was only for Muslims.