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Khalid: Selangor law is outdated

SHAH ALAM: The enactment which prohibits non-Muslims from using the word "Allah" and other Islamic terms is no longer relevant, said Pas Shah Alam member of parliament Khalid Samad.

Calling the enactment "outdated", the Pas political bureau committee member said there was no reason why the enactment cannot be amended.

"It (the enactment) contradicts the effort to propagate Islam. So, I would like to call for discussions.

"We cannot simply say because the enactment is there, it must be followed," he said yesterday.

He was referring to the Non-Muslim Enactment gazetted in 1988 which prohibits the use of the word "Allah" by non-Muslims.

The Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) had also warned that non-Muslims in the state should refrain from using 35 Islamic terms and references to propagate their religion, as they could be charged in court if a formal complaint was lodged.

Khalid, who remained steadfast that the word "Allah" was not exclusive to Muslims, said the enactment was not stated in the Quran or the Prophet's hadith where it cannot be changed.

He also called for a lead-

ership change in Jais and Selangor Islamic Religious Council (Mais) as he claimed they were still "being led by the same people appointed by the previous administration".

"It is an open secret. They are not happy, do not give full support to the current administration and they like to do things independently.

"They are also at loggerheads with the state government on certain issues."

He said the leaders needed to be changed according to the current development in Selangor.

Earner, Khalid denied allegations by 16 non-governmental organisations that he had challenged the sultan's position in his speech at the Subang Jaya Municipal Council hall on Jan 12.

"My speech was intended to stop special interest groups from using institutions under the sultan's purview for political means.

"If these NGOs want to hit out at anyone to protect the sultan, it should be aimed to the groups and not me."

The NGOs had lodged a police report against him on Jan 18 for allegedly undermining the sultan.

Khalid also said he would accept any decision by the party's disciplinary committee against him if he was found guilty of breaching the party's etiquette.