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Rulers want 'Allah' issue resolved quickly

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malay Rulers have expressed their sadness over the translation of the word "God" to "Allah" after taking note of the various requests, letters and memorandums from Muslim organisations and individuals in the country.

A statement issued by the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal said the translation had caused much confusion and dissatisfaction among the people of

Malaysia, particularly Muslims.

"This issue, unless resolved immediately, will undermine the sanctity of Islam and, possibly, security and public order as well," it said after a two-day meeting of the Conference of Rulers yesterday.

"The Malay Rulers have the responsibility to safeguard the sovereignty and sanctity of Islam as the official religion of the country without neglecting the rights and reli-

gious freedom of the other races.

The Malay Rulers also felt that the incidents of damaging houses of worship were very dangerous acts of provocation which should never be allowed to take place.

The Rulers also recorded their appreciation of the Malaysian police for their effectiveness in controlling the situation. The statement said the Malay Rulers took note that the issue over the use of the word "Allah" by

the Catholic weekly magazine, *Herald*, was under consideration by the Court of Appeal.

The 220th meeting of the Conference of Rulers, chaired by the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah, also discussed among others, defence, security, and the appointment of judges to the High Court and Court of Appeal as well as members of the Education Service Commission. - Bernama