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Defiant Zul

PKR lawmaker
challenges
party leaders
over 'Allah issue'

PETALING JAYA: A defiant Zulkifli Nordin has issued a fresh challenge to his party leaders. He says he will continue talking about the "Allah" issue despite a gag order.

This is despite a warning from PKR leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim of stern action against the Kulim-Bandar Baharu MP if he continues to make media statements about the matter.

Immediately after the PKR political bureau issued the order yesterday banning party members from making statements on the use of the word "Allah" by

non-Muslims, Zulkifli declared that it was limited to his police report against PAS Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad over the same matter.

He said as a Muslim, he had the right to speak his mind on the issue.

"No one can stop me from defending Islam," he said when contacted.

On Friday, Zulkifli lodged a report against Khalid for sedition for saying that the Selangor Non-Islamic

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Zulkifli alleges 'little Pharaohs' want his head

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Religion (Control of Propagation Among Muslim) Enactment 1988, which forbids other religions from using the word "Allah", was out-

Zulkifli, who will also be facing the party's disciplinary committee over the police report, said he stood by every word in his blog posting earlier yesterday.

In his blog, Zulkifli alleged that "little Pharaohs" in the party were "barking everywhere calling for his head to be axed".

"The little Pharaohs are already in the process of mincing me in the media but until now, I have not been summoned to explain or defend myself," he wrote.

He added that the media had sentenced him even before disciplinary

proceedings had started.

He also said it was strange that he was not invited to yesterday's meeting where his conduct was discussed.

The PKR political bureau ordered Zulkifli yesterday to go before the disciplinary committee for lodging the report against Khalid.

Party secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution, in a press conference after the meeting, said the bureau had requested that the committee, headed by deputy president Dr Syed Husin Ali, meet within a month to investigate the case.

It requested that the board decide on one of three actions to be taken against Zulkifli — issue him a warning, suspend him or sack him.

"The political bureau accepts that we will continue to uphold the principle of allowing differences in opin-

ions and that Zulkifli has the right to speak up," Saifuddin said.

"However, we find that his method in bringing up party issues has elements that undermine the channels and mechanisms of the party."

At the same press conference, Anwar said Zulkifli should make the necessary "corrections" to his earlier actions.

On Zulkifli's stance that non-Muslims could not use the word "Allah", Anwar said the party's position allowing non-Muslims to use the word was based on "sound and profound arguments" of renowned Muslim scholars.

Anwar said he disagreed with Zulkifli lodging the report because the latter had adequate avenues to express his views, either in Pakatan Rakyat or PKR.



Zulkifli: Will also face the party's disciplinary committee over the police report