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NEWS

No Pas explanation on Allah issue, says Karpal

NOT SETTLED: DAP stands by Pakatan Rakyat's decision, says DAP national chairman

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DAP national chairman Karpal Singh has refuted a statement by Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang that DAP has accepted the explanation given by Pas over the "Allah" issue.

"No explanation was given. It is wrong to say that DAP accepts the (Pas Syura Council's) decision that the word 'Allah' can be used only by Muslims. DAP stands by the decision taken by Pakatan Rakyat that the word can be used by non-Muslims."

Hadi was quoted on Friday as saying that the council's decision had been explained to the DAP

leadership by Pas spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, and that the matter had been resolved.

He had said the prohibition on non-Muslims using the word "Allah" was settled and DAP's leadership had accepted the explanation given by him at a meeting in a hotel in Penang last Monday.

Karpal said that at the meeting, which he called informal, the "Allah" issue was not raised.

"The question of explanation does not arise, and consequently, the assertion that it was well received by the DAP leadership cannot arise."

The use of the word "Allah" became an issue when Penang Chief Minister and DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng, in his Christ-

mas message last year, urged the Federal Government to allow Christians to use the word "Allah" in Malay-language Bibles.

During a press conference at the Parti Keadilan Rakyat headquarters in Petaling Jaya on Jan 8, Pas, PKR and DAP had announced their common stand on the issue, with Hadi saying non-Muslims could use the word "Allah" as long as it was not misused.

However, on Jan 13, the Pas Syura Council had decided against the use of the word "Allah" by non-Muslims and Pas leaders, including Hadi, have since changed their stand in support of the council's decision.

Karpal had reacted to the council's decision by urging Pas to review it to be in line with Pakatan

Rakyat's common stand announced on Jan 8.

Yesterday, Karpal insisted that the Pas Syura Council could not overrule any decision made jointly by the opposition coalition.

On another issue, Karpal said DAP national organising secretary Anthony Loke had done nothing wrong when he invited the son of the Negri Sembilan Yang di-Pertuan Besar to contest under the party's ticket in the 13th general election.

Last Saturday, former DAP vice-chairman Tunku Aziz Tunku Ibrahim had said DAP had offered the position of menteri besar to Tunku Zain Muhriz, but when the young prince had rejected the offer, the party had offered him a chance to contest a federal seat instead.

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