



PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA

PERDANA LIBRARY
PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION
NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Newspaper | New Straits Times |
| Date | 9/1/2013 |

Opposition coalition defies sultan's decree

NST-9/1/2013

PETALING JAYA: DAP, Pas and Parti Keadilan Rakyat have jointly announced yesterday that non-Muslims could use the word "Allah" to refer to God, despite a decree by Sultan of Selangor Sharafuddin Idris Shah that they are forbidden from using it.

In a press conference at the PKR headquarters here yesterday, Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said the word "Allah" could be used by non-Muslims as long as it was not misused.

He said the word "Allah", which was written in the Quran, was special and could not be translated properly into other languages.

"Therefore, Muslims of all races refer to God as Allah in their prayers, but Islam does not prohibit other religions from using the word although it may not reflect the original meaning," he said.

Also present were PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang.

The opposition coalition's decision contradicted the sultan of Selangor's decree which was announced by the Selangor Islamic Re-

ligious Council (Mais) earlier in the day.

"The Sultan of Selangor, Sharafuddin Idris Shah, has decreed that non-Muslims are forbidden from using the word 'Allah'.

The opposition leaders were however evasive when asked whether they were going against the sultan's decree, with Anwar saying that the statement by Hadi was "clear enough for everyone to understand".

Anwar also alleged that Mais "moves independently" and had nothing to do with the PKR-led Selangor government.

"Whenever it (Mais) makes a statement, it doesn't mean it represents the state government as it always criticises Pakatan."

The top opposition leaders' relatively obscure response to Sultan Sharafuddin's decree was, however, not shared by DAP chairman Karpal Singh.

In a statement made in Penang yesterday, Karpal while insisting on his party's stand on the matter, called on the attorney-general to look into the decree by Sultan Shara-

fuddin as he claimed that it may contradict the constitutional rights of non-Muslims, particularly Sikhs.

"Let it be known that in the Sikh scriptures, Guru Granth Sahib, the term Allah, is used 46 times.

"The Sikhs have their right to use the term Allah as a synonym for God as written in the scriptures."

In **Kota Baru**, Pas spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said non-Muslims should have the opportunity to use the word Allah in their religion.

"There are seven or eight verses in the Quran which relate to this situation, meaning that the use is not limited only to Muslims as it can also be used by non-Muslims," he said after presenting appointment letters to municipal and district councillors here.

Nik Aziz said he would attend Pas' syura consultative council's meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday where the party was supposed to officially decide on the matter.

"If the council reaches a decision which is different from my personal view, I will adhere to its stand."