

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at a ceramah in Taman Tuanku Jaafar, Paroi, in Negri Sembilan on Wednesday night, PIC BY AZRUL EDHAM



STAY AWAY

PM: DON'T POLITICISE 'ALLAH' ISSUE

Conference of Rulers will streamline matters on use of word, says Anwar

SEREMBAN

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim again reminded all parties not to politicise the issue relating to the use of the word "Allah".

He said the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, as the chairman of the National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs Malaysia, had also reminded him of this recently.

"We will try to streamline this 'Allah' issue to be brought to the Conference of Rulers, and any decision must not be exploited as a political issue, this is His Royal Highness' decree.

"So, do not politicise the 'Allah' issue because the rulers will streamline the matter based on proposals by the federal government."

"What is Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin saying? Still using the 'Allah' issue. They are defying the rulers," Anwar said at a ceramah in the Paroi state constituency here on Wednesday night.

Present were caretaker Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun and Pakatan Harapan Paroi seat candidate Norwani Ahmat.

Muhyiddin, who is Perikatan Nasional chairman, had said at a ceramah in Kapar, Selangor, recently that the way the "Allah" issue was being handled by the government showed that it was being run by non-Malays.

He had alleged that when he was home minister, DAP had pressured him to not allow an appeal against a High Court ruling that allowed a Sarawakian Bumiputera Christian to use the word "Allah".

He had said that there was a big difference in the meaning of the word as used by Christians and Muslims.

"As a Malay leader, that is why I urged the Pakatan Harapan government to appeal (against the High Court ruling). Even if we had lost the appeal at the highest court, we could have made a law on the 'Allah' issue," Muhyiddin had said.

Muhyiddin had said the appeal did not proceed after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's unity government came into power last year.

"He became the prime minister and decided to stop the appeal, and when you don't appeal it means you agree to the court order that allows Christians to use the word 'Allah'," he had said,

adding that this was due to pressure from DAP.

On March 21, 2021, Court of Appeal judge Datuk Nor Bee Ariffin, sitting as a High Court judge, had ruled after a 13-year legal battle between the government and Jill Ireland, a Christian woman from Sarawak.

Nor Bee had described the Home Ministry's prohibition on the use of four words by non-Muslims — "Allah", "kaabah", "solat" and "baitullah" — 35 years ago as "illegal" and "irrational".

She had said the government directive was issued beyond the aim of the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984.

The government subsequently withdrew its appeal against the High Court ruling, which allowed non-Muslims to use the four words for educational purposes.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail had said Muhyiddin's statement was disrespectful to the Malay rulers and ignored the government's warning for politicians not to play up issues on the 3Rs (race, religion and royalty) during the state elections.

He had said the government regretted that Muhyiddin was stubborn in playing up 3R issues and disrespecting the Malay rulers.

"To him, this issue will give him an advantage (in the state election) by portraying himself as the champion of Muslims and Islam," Saifuddin had said. **Bernama**