

'Do not politicise Allah issue'

SEREMBAN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reiterated his firm stand that all parties should not politicise the use of the word "Allah"

He said the Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, as chairman of the National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs Malaysia, had also reminded him (Anwar) 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' order. So, do not politicise the Allah issue because the Rulers will be streamlining the matter based on proposals by the federal government.

"What is Tan Sri Muhyiddin (Yassin) saying? ... still using the Allah issue ... they are openly defying the Rulers," Anwar said during a *ceramah* at Taman Tuanku Jaafar in the Paroi constituency,

> Matter to be taken to Rulers' Conference for streamlining based on proposals by federal government, says Anwar

held in conjunction with the Unity Tour on Wednesday.

Also present were Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun and Pakatan Harapan (PH) Paroi candidate Norwani Ahmat.

Recently, the media quoted Muhyiddin, who is Perikatan Nasional (PN) chairman, as saying at a *ceramah* in Kapar, Selangor that the way the Allah issue is being handled by the government showed that it is run by non-Malays.

In response, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail described Muhyiddin's statement as one that was disrespectful of the Malay Rulers'

advice apart from ignoring the government's warning for politicians not to play up 3R (race, religion and royalty) issues in the run-up to the state elections.

Anwar has called on the people of Negeri Sembilan to throw their full support behind candidates from the unity government parties in the Aug 12 state election.

He said the backing given via the polls would further consolidate and strengthen the unity government at the federal level, as well as in Negeri Sembilan, *Bernama* reported.

"Hopefully with your support, we will bring in changes. I hope with the support given to Paroi candidate Norwani, her victory will

strengthen the unity government in this state."

The prime minister also reiterated his commitment to eradicating hardcore poverty among all races this year, involving some 136,000 families.

"Malays, Chinese, Indians - we will help them all. To all district officers, please inform me if there are hardcore poor families in your district and take down their names. If there is a list, Wanita Umno please inform me. I have reminded all of them of this.

"This year, I want to break the record, not the tallest building in the world, not some majestic bridge, not a grand fortress. There is no point in having luxury cars and large houses when the welfare of the poor is ignored.

"PAS and Bersatu MPs are saying this (eradicating hardcore poverty) is not possible. But I am saying that we will mobilise all of our ministries and departments (to do this)."