

## COMMENTS ON ISLAMIC LAW PANEL

# PM BACKS SELANGOR RULER'S REMINDER

Non-Muslim parties can address MKI in writing if there is doubt, says Anwar

FUAD NIZAM  
KUALA LUMPUR  
fuadnizam@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has affirmed his full support for the reminder from Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah that people, especially non-Muslims, should respect and not interfere in matters related to Islamic affairs in Malaysia.

Anwar, in a social media post, said non-Muslim parties could address the National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs Malaysia (MKI) in writing if there was any doubt.

He said this approach would resolve any confusion in a harmonious and civilised atmosphere.

Yesterday, Sultan Sharafuddin, who is MKI chairman, in a post on

the Selangor Royal Office's Facebook page, stated that MKI held the trust and responsibility to handle all matters concerning the Islamic community.

His Majesty said MKI also comprised experts in various fields, especially law and Islamic matters.

"His Majesty hopes that politicians, especially non-Muslims, refrain from constantly meddling in Islamic matters.

"Instead, followers of other religions should emulate Muslims who do not meddle in the affairs of other religions in Malaysia."

Sultan Sharafuddin was responding to a proposal made by Beruas member of parliament Datuk Ngeh Koo Ham, who said the government should appoint experts from non-Muslim communities to assist the Special Committee to Study the Competence of the State Legislative Assembly in Enacting Islamic Laws established earlier this month.

Datuk Ngeh Koo Ham was quoted as suggesting this step to consider the perspectives of non-Muslims before making any change to the law.

Ngeh's suggestion received

negative reactions from various parties, including the religious affairs minister, Umno, and even DAP leaders.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar described the suggestion as baseless.

Na'im said in matters concerning the administration of Islamic affairs, including issues related to legal policies and syariah justice involving the Muslim community, his ministry would always refer to MKI.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki also rejected the suggestion, saying Ngeh was "out of touch with reality".

He said the clarification aligned with the Federal Constitution and the DAP representative's proposal would only spark unnecessary controversies in the harmonious atmosphere comprising people of various religions and races.

DAP secretary-general, Anthony Lokesaid Ngeh's suggestion was a misjudgment regarding the founding reasons behind the committee's authority.