

# PM: Don't distort facts on Allah issue

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reminded all parties not to distort facts pertaining to the use of the word "Allah".

Anwar said he did not give any contradictory statements following his audience with the sultan of Selangor last week.

"What the sultan of Selangor said in his statement (after the audience) was concerning the cabinet's decision to seek the rulers' consent for the word 'Allah' to be used in Peninsular Malaysia with restrictions for non-Muslims in Sabah and Sarawak.

"Since there is an amendment, His Majesty suggested that it be scrutinised and clarified to the National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs (MKI) that he himself (the sultan) could bring it to the Conference of Rulers' meeting.

"So, how is that contradictory? Why do you want to distort the facts? To deceive the people? Please do not lie just for the sake of gaining political mileage," he said during the Prime Minister's Question Time at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Anwar said this in reply to Datuk Dr Zulkaferi Hanapi (Bersatu-Tanjong Karang), who tried to use Standing Order 36(12) to demand that the prime minister be referred to the Rights and Privileges Committee for allegedly making contradictory statements in the house.

Zulkaferi referred to Anwar's statement on May 23 that denied the allegation that the government did not refer to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong before withdrawing its appeal on the High Court's decision concerning the Use of the word "Allah".

According to Zulkaferi, this was because of sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah's statement on June 7, which implied that the government had not referred the matter to the Conference of Rulers.

Anwar said the government's decision to withdraw the appeal had been referred to Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah through a telephone call during the cabinet meeting on Feb 7.

"If you had read the statement correctly, it is not confusing at all and the matter was indeed referred to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong," he added. **Bernama**