

I did not mislead House on use of the term Allah, says PM

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has refuted claims made by an opposition lawmaker that he had misled the Dewan Rakyat on the use of the term Allah.

He stressed that he had not given any contradictory statements in regard to his audience with the Sultan of Selangor last week.

“What the Sultan of Selangor said in his statement (after the audience) was on the matter 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, the Sultan 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.

Anwar was responding to Datuk Dr Zulkaferi Hanapi (PN-Tanjong Karang) who had filed a motion to refer Anwar to the Rights and Privileges Committee for misleading the House on May 23 regarding the issue related to the word Allah.

Zulkaferi referred to Anwar’s statement in the Dewan Rakyat on May 23 denying 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 the Sultan of Selangor’s statement on June 7 implied that the government had not referred the matter to the Conference of Rulers before withdrawing the appeal.

In the statement, the Sultan, as MKI chairman, also called for the issue to be taken to MKI’s meeting in August before it was

further discussed at the Conference of Rulers’ meeting in October.

At the same time, Anwar said the government’s decision to withdraw the appeal had been referred to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong through a telephone call he made to the King during the Cabinet meeting on Feb 7.

“If you had read the statement, it is not confusing at all and the matter was indeed referred to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong before the Cabinet decided on the issue,” he added.