

Up to AG to take action against Sanusi, says Anwar

> 'Claim that Penang belongs to Kedah should be stopped as it violates principles of Federal Constitution'

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is leaving it to the attorney-general to take appropriate action against Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor for his statement claiming that Penang belongs to Kedah.

He said there should be a stop to such a claim as it violates the Federal Constitution's principles consented to by the Malay Rulers.

"Do we have to sacrifice the principles of the Constitution and create chaos?"

"We have been independent for more than six decades. The

previous ruling parties (of Kedah), whether Umno-BN, PAS-PH and now PAS-PN, have never raised the issue (concerning Kedah and Penang) except for an irresponsible leader who is willing to violate the principles of the Constitution," he said during the minister's question time at the

Dewan Rakyat sitting yesterday.

Anwar was replying to Lim Guan Eng (PH-Bagan), who wanted to know what action would be taken against Muhammad Sanusi, who called for the Federal Constitution to be amended so that Penang could be returned to Kedah, which has divided the

people, caused anxiety among Penang residents and threatened the nation's harmony and security.

He explained that Penang's position as a state within Malaysia that is separate from Kedah is enshrined under Clause (2) of Article 1 of the Federal Constitution.

Anwar added that the Constitution also spells out that the Federation's states are Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Malacca, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Penang, Selangor and Terengganu, and the Borneo states of Sabah and Sarawak

He said Clause (3) of Article 71 of the Federal Constitution read together with the Eighth Schedule of the Federal Constitution also guarantees the position of state Constitutions, including that of the Penang State Constitution.

Anwar said hence, the issue should not be raised, especially when Malaysia has already obtained independence and has remained a sovereign country.

However, he did not refute the historical fact that Penang and Seberang Perai were part of Kedah before, but it changed when the British acquired Penang and Seberang Perai, just like Malacca, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak

He said the history of Kedah and Penang should not be disputed any more.

Earlier, a commotion broke out when Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee Beluran (Bersatu-Beluran) used the Standing Order 23 (1) (c) of the Dewan Rakyat to dispute the selection of Lim's question as the first to be answered yesterday.

However, Speaker Tan Sri Johari Abdul said he had studied and made the appropriate judgement regarding the question, Bernama reported.

Two other MPs, namely Datuk Che Mohamad Zulkifly Jusoh (PN-Besut) and Datuk Awang Hashim (PN-Pendang) also stood up and used Standing Order 23 (1) (b) and 36 (6) respectively, in protest of the question, but Johari remained firm in his stance of allowing it to be asked.



Anwar trying on a songkok worn by scouts when he received a delegation from the Kedah Scouts Commissioners' Council at the Parliament Building yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIC**