

TRAVEL CONTROL OFFICER

PM NOT EXEMPT FROM TCO DESIGNATION

All high-ranking persons subject to same measure, not just Samsuri, says Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday said he is also subject to enforcement and actions under the Travel Control Officer (TCO) in the border control system managed by the authorities.

"All high-ranking individuals are subject to the same measures, myself included," he said in a brief response after a Meet Anwar

session at International Islamic University Malaysia.

He was responding to Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar, who claimed he was flagged as a person of risk under the country's border control system.

In a statement on Thursday, yesterday, Samsuri said he was issued a TCO, a designation typically assigned to individuals considered a "threat."

Meanwhile, in **Kuantan**, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi described Sam-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at International Islamic University Malaysia in Gombak, yesterday. NSTP PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

suri's claim of being flagged with a TCO as a tactic to seek sympathy ahead of the Ayer Kuning state seat by-election.

The deputy prime minister said even the home minister (Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail) had dismissed the allegation, saying that there was no such thing (placing Samsuri under surveillance).

"The home minister has said no, so why is there a need to raise the matter.

"Maybe, he wants to seek sympathy due to the Ayer Kuning (by-election)," he said after launching the UCYP University's Pahang Rail Academy at the Yayasan Pahang complex here yesterday.

On Thursday, Samsuri, claimed that he had been flagged in the border control system with a TCO and alleged that he was being monitored.

The Pas vice-president alleged that his movements were

watched, and his phone had been tapped.

TCO is a designation often assigned by a specific branch to individuals deemed a "risk" of "threat" despite there being no evidence to prove they have committed anything worth the level of alarm.

The Ayer Kuning by-election Nomination Day is fixed for today, followed by early voting on April 22 and polling on April 26.