

RELOCATION ISSUE

'PM FINDING BEST SOLUTION FOR TEMPLE'

Ramanan: No places of worship will be arbitrarily demolished under unity govt

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is committed to finding a solution over the relocation of a Hindu temple that's situated along Jalan Munshi Abdullah in Kuala Lumpur, says Datuk Seri R. Ramanan.

The deputy entrepreneur and

cooperatives development minister said the unity government was intent on ensuring that all places of worship were respected and not moved or redeveloped without careful consideration.

He said ongoing negotiations between the Dewi Sri Pathrakaliyamman Temple committee, the private company that owns the land and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) aim to secure an alternative site for the temple.



Deputy Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development Minister Datuk Seri R. Ramanan (centre) visiting a stall during the Madani Raya initiative at Dewan Matahari, Subang Bestari, yesterday, NSTP PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

"Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is trying to find the best possible solution and we are also caught in a very difficult situation because the land is privately owned.

"It is not the government's decision because it is private property.

"However, the prime minister views this as a very important matter and he has said that under his administration, no places of worship will be arbitrarily demolished," he told reporters at the Madani Raya sales event in Kota Damansara here.

Ramanan also repeated his call to end the politicisation of racial and religious issues.

He said these were sensitive matters and urged politicians and netizens to stop bringing up race and religion in every discussion.

"There are many other topics

we can discuss. We can talk about the economy, cost of living, or even the weather."

On the Madani Raya initiative, Ramanan said it offered the public discounts of up to 50 per cent on essentials for Aidilfitri.

The two-day programme that began yesterday at Dewan Matahari, Subang Bestari, features items such as rice, cooking oil, chicken, beef, frozen foods and dry goods.

The initiative, he added, aimed to ease the financial burden of families by providing affordable daily necessities.

"This Madani sales programme is very important for the communities in the Sungai Buloh parliamentary area, particularly the B40 group.

"Last week sales reached nearly RM400,000. This indicates that

Sungai Buloh residents genuinely need this initiative.

"Typically, the Madani sales programme is subsidised 20 per cent by the Cooperatives Commission of Malaysia, but I have added a 30 per cent incentive for Sungai Buloh residents, bringing the total discount to 50 per cent during 'Happy Hour'," Ramanan, who is Sungai Buloh member of parliament, said after the event's launch.

Organised by the Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Ministry, through the Cooperatives Commission of Malaysia, this is the second such programme in the Sungai Buloh parliamentary constituency, following an event in Saujana Utama.

Ramanan said nearly 3,000 people have benefited from the initiative.