

'SOME RIDING ON RELIGION'

PM: Don't exploit KL temple relocation issue

SEPANG: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reminded all parties not to exploit the issue of relocating the Dewi Sri Pathrakaliamman Temple on Jalan Masjid India.

He said discussions were underway to find the best possible solution to resolve the matter.

"The problem is there are (some) individuals riding on religion, including lawyers, who have never been involved in Hindu religious activities and are now becoming champions and making statements such as wanting to demolish (the temple).

"I cannot imagine myself, as prime minister, ordering the demolition of any place of worship

or religious activity belonging to another faith," he told reporters after performing Friday prayers at the Sultan Abdul Samad Mosque yesterday.

Anwar said the land had been privately owned since 2012 and did not belong to the government. The landowner has plans to develop a mosque on the site.

"So the temple is old and its status has not been approved, it is not legal.

"But to ensure that our relationship is harmonious, the company (landowner) has agreed to channel some assistance while Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) has looked for a replacement land site so that it does not become a

problem.

"It is (necessary) to find a good way so that they (the temple) can get a legal and approved site. Hopefully, it will be resolved well.

"I hope there is no need for an inappropriate response, including from the Muslim community, and that we handle it well because mosques will continue to be built and temple sites will be prepared," he said.

Yesterday, City Hall said it had identified a new location for the Hindu temple.

It gave the assurance that all measures to be taken aligned with the principle of religious freedom as guaranteed by the Federal Constitution.