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DAP wants TV, radio air-time for all religions

IPOH, Sun. - The DAP today urged all radio and television stations to have religious programmes for all races in an effort to build a morally strong society.

Its secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said the electronic media with a mass appeal was a powerful tool in nurturing good Malaysian citizens.

"The public and private radio and television stations should allocate time for religious programmes because social ills are faced by all communities," he told reporters after meeting Perak DAP members.

Setting aside air-time for all religions will also create better understanding among the people.

RTM has an important role in nation-building and similarly private stations should also give importance to national interest rather than profits.

Lim, who is Tanjung MP, was responding to a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that criminal activities among students had reached alarming proportions and it could no longer be swept under the carpet.

Lim said in the 70s and 80s, the Government resisted calls by non-Muslim religious groups for air-time for religious programmes.

"The present Government is liberal and it is only appropriate that the call by the groups is realised now," he said, adding that he would raise the issue when debating the royal address at the Dewan Rakyat sitting next month.

"The DAP hopes the Barisan Nasional MPs will support the call to set aside air-time in television and radio stations."

Lim said Malaysia was one of the most successful plural societies in the world and that had contributed to tourism promotion and foreign exchange because of its cultural, racial and language diversities.

He also called on the Government to hold dialogues with the non-Muslim religious authorities.

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