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DAP-CPF

DAP BACKS MAHATHIR ON CPF ISSUE

KUALA LUMPUR, July 4 (Bernama) -- DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said today the party supports Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call that the Singapore government should not discriminate Malaysians from the peninsula and from Sabah and Sarawak in Central Provident Fund (CPF) withdrawals.

He said the Singapore government should allow all Malaysians to withdraw their CPFs when they quit their jobs and leave the republic.

It has been estimated that there are about 50,000 Malaysians who are CPF members with total savings of about S\$1 billion or RM2.5 billion, he said in a statement today.

He said the present policy of allowing workers of other nationalities and Malaysians from Sabah and Sarawak to withdraw their CPF savings when they quit their jobs and leave Singapore was "clearly discriminating and dividing Malaysians into two categories, something which good neighbours should not do."

Lim said after 33 years since Malaysia and Singapore have gone their separate ways in nation-building, it is time that the Singapore government acknowledged that such discriminatory treatment, though as a result of "historic links", were now completely untenable.

"It is a test case of the Singapore government's readiness to maintain the best possible relationship with Malaysia by taking the initiative to end the 33-year discrimination among Malaysians with regard to CPF withdrawals, without having to go through protracted and unpleasant diplomatic and bilateral negotiations and discussions," he said.

The Parliamentary opposition leader hoped that the Singapore Cabinet, at its next meeting, will make a policy decision and announce that Malaysians from the peninsula would be treated like Malaysians from Sabah and Sarawak and be allowed to withdraw their CPF savings.

"This will also be a great gesture of good neighbourliness as Malaysia is in dire need of the RM2.5 billion CPF savings by its citizens in view of its deteriorating economic crisis," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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