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Kit Siang hits out at betrayal claims

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang today described as "galling" the allegations by certain quarters that he had betrayed his principles for personal reasons by being supportive of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I will go on a nationwide tour ... to address head-on the vicious falsehoods," he said in a statement today.

"It is very unfortunate that at a time when the entire energies of the people should be focused on how to bring about a scenario where the Malaysian Government, society and people could respond as one unit to tide through the economic crisis in the shortest possible time, there are such vicious and unproductive falsehoods."

Lim said according to the falsehoods he had betrayed his principles and the DAP cause by supporting Dr Mahathir as follows:

- * Support in Parliament last November for the motion of confidence in the Prime Minister;
- * Support for Dr Mahathir in that Malaysia should not seek a bail-out from the International Monetary Fund; and,
- * Support for Dr Mahathir in stating the DAP would co-operate with the National Economic Action Council despite its reservations about its formation and composition.

"On behalf of the DAP, I have always maintained the stand that in the larger national interest, the DAP is prepared to co-operate with the Barisan Nasional Government led by Dr Mahathir without compromising our principles or our right and duty to articulate the aspirations of Malaysians."

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