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`Umno will not go the Pas way'

Sharanjit Singh

LANGKAWI, Sat. - Umno will not follow Pas in introducing rigid Islamic laws and policies, First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin said today.

Dismissing fears that Umno would try to outdo the opposition party, he said Umno would do things its own way.

"Umno will not go the Pas way. Umno will go its own way," he told a Press conference after witnessing the sales launch of a Business Focus Sdn Bhd project in Ghana at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition hall in Awana Porto Malai.

He had earlier visited exhibition booths at the maritime section of Lima '99.

Pas has been gradually introducing Islamic laws in Kelantan and Terengganu where it forms the State Governments.

In Terengganu, it has already banned gambling and is contemplating the same for alcohol consumption.

Terengganu Menteri Besar Abdul Hadi Awang, who is also Pas deputy president, has made known his desire to implement the hudud (Islamic criminal law) in the East Coast State.

On DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang's fears about Pas' policies, Daim said:

"Who caused it ... they deserve it."

On what Umno planned to do following the general election, Daim, who is also Umno treasurer, said the party had started a post-mortem on the results.

"We will announce that (the outcome) in due course," he said.

Asked about Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed's position following his defeat in the general election, Daim said:

"He has lost. The people have chosen and we have to accept it (the results)."

Daim said it was up to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to decide Mustapa's future.

On his own plans, Daim said: "My plan has always been to retire as soon as possible."

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