

# Pas told to leave Front if it wants an Islamic State

Nst 2 8 JUL 2001

PENANG, Fri. 1— Pas should consider leaving the Opposition Front if it insists on setting up an Islamic State, DAP deputy chairman Karpal Singh said today.

“Pas is bent on the matter despite our protest,” he said.

“If so, then it should leave the Front.”

Karpal made the call here following Pas’ insistence that it would setup an Islamic State if it wrests control of the Government from the Barisan Nasional.

“It is no point debating anymore,” Karpal said.

“Pas wants to set up an Islamic State and it should go its way alone.”

Asked about the proposed meeting between top Pas and DAP leaders in Kuala Lumpur next week, Karpal said, “I hope the meeting will be fruitful . . . that Pas will withdraw its proposal to set up an Islamic State.”

Asked to comment on Pas information chief Azizan Abdul Razak’s

claim that the DAP was nicking a fight with Pas over its Islamic State proposal, he said Azizan should mind his language.

“We are not picking a fight with Pas.

“I also do not agree with Azizan’s claim that I am speaking the same tune as Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad,” he said.

Azizan had said that Karpal never ceased to attack Pas over the issue, as did the Prime Minister.

Karpal said Pas was sincere when it agreed to exclude the Islamic State issue in the Opposition Front’s common manifesto during the 1999 general election.

Now, however, Pas has turned its back on the Front, he said.

Karpal also described as a “deliberate lie” a claim by Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Hadi Awang that they had met over the issue and that he (Karpal) had understood the matter.

“It is a deliberate lie and I do not know what his agenda is,” he said.