

'Chen's view on Islamic state his own'

SUN 25 OCT 2007

PETALING JAYA, Wed: DAP life adviser Dr Chen Man Hin's view that Malaysia is a moderate Islamic nation is a personal one and not the party's, its deputy chairman Karpal Singh said today.

Karpal said DAP's stand has, from the outset, been crystal clear that Malaysia is not an Islamic country or state. "It is a secular state in the context of Islam as the religion of the country."

Chen, a former DAP chairman and MP, was quoted as asking PAS leaders to "wake up from their sleep" in dealing with the party's plan to set up an Islamic state as Malaysia is already recognised by the world as a moderate Islamic nation.

He further said that DAP agreed with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Malaysia is a moderate Islamic country.

Karpal said: "Dr Chen is under a complete misconception in conceding Malaysia is a moderate Islamic state. He has a right

to his personal views but his views cannot commit the DAP to a stand he has publicly decided to take."

He said DAP will continue to assert and require that Barisan Nasional accepts what Article 3 of Federal Constitution clearly spells out in no uncertain terms and backed by a judicial pronouncement by the Supreme Court that Malaysia is a secular state.

Meanwhile, Parti Keadilan Nasional urged PAS leaders to concentrate on the opposition coalition's manifesto instead of being trapped in the polemics of the Islamic state.

Its Youth wing assistant secretary Diong Chi Tzuoh said the party respects the right of peaceful struggle and the advocacy of PAS.

"Keadilan members will stick to the stand as expressed in a joint statement by our party president and PRM that we will not endorse any effort to change the entity of the state without a two-thirds majority of the citizens in a referendum."