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DAP-Unity

DAP CALLS FOR ALL PARTY CONFERENCE ON MALAYSIAN UNITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- The DAP today urged the government to call for an all party conference on Malaysian unity apart from the Umno-initiated Malay unity discussion among the Malay-based political parties.

DAP Secretary General Kerk Kim Hock said the DAP leadership would seriously consider active participation if there was going to be a Malaysian unity talk.

"It should be an all party conference on Malaysian unity. If it is a serious problem concerning unity among the Malay community then it is also a Malaysian problem and we should see it in the Malaysian context," he told Bernama here.

Agreeing that it was good for national unity that there was a planned talk between the Malay political parties, Kerk was, however, worried that against the backdrop of the recent development, such racial-based talk would be interpreted differently by other communities.

It was reported today that Umno has recommended its President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to hold a meeting with PAS and Keadilan presidents to discuss Malay unity.

"Against the backdrop of the Suqui (the Malaysian Chinese Organisations' Election Appeals Committee) demands and (the counter demands) by the Federation of Peninsular Malay Students (GPMS), I'm worried that such community-based talk will give rise to speculations and worries among other communities," he said.

Thus, he said, the best way towards a solution on unity was to cover every aspect of it involving all the races.

"Furthermore, after 43 years of independence, I believe, it's more appropriate that more focus be given towards Malaysian unity... which everybody always talk about," he said.

Saying that every political party in their New Year, Hari Raya, Christmas and Deepavali messages never failed to stress the importance of national unity and integration, he believed, it would take one bold initiative of holding the all party Malaysian unity conference to turn it into a reality.

-- BERNAMA

MNY AHH AO