

10/10/2001

DAP defends secular Malaysia

IPOH, Tues. - The DAP is prepared to work with progressive Islamic forces in Malaysia to expand the space for justice, democracy and pluralism.

National chairman Lim Kit Siang said the party would, however, defend the 44-year-old constitutional principle of a secular Malaysia which was not anti-Islam.

"We are consistent in our stand on the fundamental constitutional principle propounded by the framers on the Federal Constitution and first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman," he said in his speech at the opening of the Bukit Merah branch and dinner at the new village near here, last night.

Lim said an important political decision was made last Friday when Barisan Nasional component party leaders gave their full support to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's declaration that Malaysia was already an Islamic State.

"The leaders gave instant support to the declaration even without consulting or getting a mandate from their respective central committees," he said.

It was also startling to read statements from MCA and Gerakan leaders that the country had been an Islamic State since Independence.

(END)