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DAP disagrees with Pas Youth chief's statement

PENANG, Thurs. - The DAP said today it disagreed with Pas Youth leader Mahfuz Omar's statement that having another coalition besides the Barisan Alternative would paint a negative image that the Opposition was not united.

Its national chairman Lim Kit Siang said Pas Youth should not think it could dictate to the DAP just because they could do so to Parti Keadilan Nasional and Parti Rakyat Malaysia.

Lim said the issue of the defence of the 44-year fundamental constitutional principle of Malaysia as a democratic, secular and multi-religious state with Islam as the official religion "is a question which does not just concern the DAP or the Opposition but all political parties and all Malaysians, regardless of race, religion or political affiliation."

This, he said, was why he had stated last Wednesday that the DAP was prepared to form a new secular Opposition Front with Keadilan and PRM and other political forces, including progressive Islam forces.

"Mahfuz, however, has rejected the proposal, saying that if there is another coalition besides the Barisan Alternative, it would paint a negative image that the Opposition was disunited.

"In the first place, let me say that just because Pas Youth thinks it could dictate to Keadilan and PRM, it should not think it could dictate to DAP," Lim said at the DAP Bukit Bendera Winter Solstice Festival gathering at Tanjung Bunga here last night.

Lim also said he had applauded Penang MCA veteran leader and former Socialist Front chief Lim Kean Siew for boldly and frankly declaring that the MCA leadership had committed a "colossal mistake" in endorsing the declaration by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Malaysia was an Islamic State "as Malaysia had always been conceived by our forefathers in the Merdeka social contract as a secular state."

(END)