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Zainuddin-DAP

DAP SHOULD REMAIN IN OPPOSITION ALLIANCE, SAYS ZAM

KUALA LUMPUR, July 28 (Bernama) -- The DAP should remain in the opposition alliance, especially in the context of its ties with PAS, for "national interests", Information Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said today.

He said DAP had the capacity to liberalise PAS.

"DAP should not be sensitive over PAS's accusation that the party (DAP) was echoing Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in criticising PAS over Islamic issues," he said in a statement today.

He said DAP should look at its success in "moderating" PAS to the extent that PAS could demolish the replica of a turtle in Terengganu but allow temples and the biggest Buddha statue to be erected in Kelantan.

The DAP should bring more Chinese and its supporters from throughout Malaysia to Kelantan to see the privileges given by PAS to non-Muslims, he said.

For instance, Chinese women are given the freedom to queue up with men at payment counters in supermarkets but Muslim women are barred from doing so.

Zainuddin said DAP should also be proud for its success in derailing the implementation of "kharaj" in Terengganu which was opposed by non-Muslims.

He said PAS had on many occasions showed its readiness to compromise with DAP and had become more liberal since establishing friendly ties with DAP to the extent that PAS sometimes see DAP to be echoing Dr Mahathir.

He said the separation of DAP and PAS would only ruin DAP's future and support.

"As such, it is not appropriate for DAP to ask PAS to leave the opposition front or for the DAP to break away from the opposition pact," he added.

-- BERNAMA

MUN KHY TS