

02/10/2001

DAP: No need to declare Islamic state status in Parliament

SEREMBAN, Mon. - The DAP said there is no need for the Government to make a declaration in Parliament that Malaysia is an Islamic state.

Its life adviser Dr Chen Man Hin said this was because Malaysia was already recognised as one through its membership with the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

"There is no need for the issue to be brought up in Parliament. Let it be discussed openly so that Malaysians can get the pros and he said.

He was commenting on Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor's statement yesterday that Malaysia should be officially proclaimed as an Islamic state in Parliament.

The proclamation, he had added, would enable MPs to take part in question and answer sessions or debates on the issue.

Fadzil was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement at the opening of the 30th Gerakan delegates conference on Saturday that Malaysia was an Islamic state in line with the teachings of the religion.

Meanwhile, in Kuala Lumpur, DAP national deputy chairman Karpal Singh, in a statement, said the Federal Constitution did not describe Malaysia as an Islamic state.

He said unlike the constitution of Iran and Pakistan, Article 3(1) of the Federal Constitution made Islam the religion of the Federation in the context of a secular state.

He said in the 1988 case of Che Omar bin Che Soh vs Public Prosecutor, the court held that the term `Islam' or `Islamic religion' in Article 3(1) meant only such acts as related to rituals and ceremonies.

"If Malaysia were an Islamic state as contended by the Prime Minister, then syariah law would have been the law in force in the country."

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