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Spell out Islamic State to avoid confusion, says Ling

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said Pas should put down in writing the form of Islamic State it planned to establish if it came to power.

Dr Ling said there were several shades of Islamic State and its practices and implementation vary slightly from country to country.

"There are Islamic States and Islamic societies. The one practised in Iraq differs from that in Iran, which is also different from Turkey and Malaysia.

"All of them have Islam as their official religion and are members of the OIC (Organisation of the Islamic Conference)," said Dr Ling after the opening of the 30th Gerakan National Delegates' Conference.

Dr Ling, who is also Transport Minister, said until now, Pas had yet to clearly explain the form of Islamic State it planned to set up if it managed to wrest power.

What was important, he said, was that the implementation of Islamic principles were acceptable to all races and in accordance to the constitution. He said Malaysia had the characteristics of a secular and Islamic country.

"If you say it is secular, yes, it is because it is accepted by all races. If you say it is a member of the OIC, it is also an Islamic country," he added.

In welcoming Dr Mahathir's speech, People's Progressive Party president Datuk M. Kayveas said it had been made clear that Malaysia was already an Islamic country and it was not necessary to be more Islamic.

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