

Invite the Pope over, Lim urges Dr M

STAR 4 JUN 2002

PENANG: Pope John Paul II should be invited to visit Malaysia to pave way for the establishment of normal diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the Vatican, said DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad should invite the Pope when he meets him on Friday.

In the meeting, Lim said Dr Mahathir should also explore the possibility of co-operation between Malaysia and the Vatican to promote inter-religious and inter-civilisational dialogues.

"The Holy See has formal diplomatic relations with 172 nations, including many Islamic countries like Iran, Iraq and Egypt.

"In Asia, the countries include Japan, South Korea, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore," he said in a press statement yesterday