

Police raid Perak DAP office and seize leaflets

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IPOH, Thurs. — Police today raided the Perak DAP office on Jalan Laxamana here and seized 10 bundles containing 5,000 leaflets protesting the announcement of Malaysia as an Islamic State.

Twenty policemen entered the office with a search warrant at 4.45pm, and spent about an hour searching for "seditious materials".

Several DAP members and leaders, including its State publicity chairman, Nga Kor Ming, were present.

Nga later said that DAP was sad and disappointed with the raid which he described as a "shameful episode for democracy in Malaysia".

"The on-going campaign, and distribution of leaflets by the party is to defend and preserve the 1957 Federal Constitution that is the supreme law of the land," he added.

Nga said the party would raise the matter with Suhakam to restore public confidence in the police.

The raid is believed to be a follow-up to yesterday's arrest of DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang here for

allegedly distributing materials with seditious contents.

The leaflets, with the heading "No to 929", are being distributed to protest the announcement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Sept 29 last year.

Asked if the latest developments would affect the campaign, Nga, who is also the State Assembly's opposition whip, said: "We will abide by the law and co-operate with the police who should refrain from adopting high-handed tactics".

Meanwhile, Ipoh Timur Umno division secretary Zulkifli Abdul Hamid today lodged a police report at the Pasir Puteh station against the DAP for distributing the leaflets which he claimed could cause religious and racial strife.

Division chief Datuk Azian Osman said authorities should ensure that the leaflets were not used as a tool to fish for votes.

"The contents of the leaflets are seditious and can stir religious and racial sentiments among Muslims."