

'Support declaration at polls'

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BAGAN SERAI: The people should show their support towards the Government's declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic state in the next general election, said Deputy Home Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin.

He said he was surprised that the declaration had been turned into a political gimmick.

"When Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made the declaration, there were no big protests.

"Now (DAP chairman) Lim

Kit Siane is raising the matter. The declaration is to show that we are in a country which practices its religion.

"It is nothing new because the Government has been carrying out Islamic practices because Islam is the official religion of the country," he told reporters after launching Touch 'n Go Point of Payment (POP) System at the Bukit Merah Laketown Resort here yesterday.

When told about Lim's brief detention by police in Ipoh last Thursday, Zainal

Abidin said it could be due to the contents of the leaflets which Lim had distributed to the public.

He said he was surprised by Lim's move which did not get the support of all DAP MPs at the previous Parliament session, adding that Lim had run out of ideas.

On whether Lim could be arrested under the Internal Security Act, he said it was not an offence if the pamphlets did not provoke or cause confusion among the people.