

Accept Malaysia as Islamic state, DAP told

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PETALING JAYA: The DAP should accept Malaysia as an Islamic state instead of asking the Government to issue a White Paper on an International Crisis Group (ICG) report that portrays the country as a launching pad for Jemaah Islamiah (JI) terrorist attacks, said Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin.

"If the DAP accepts Malaysia as an Islamic state as declared by (Prime Minister Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir (Mohamad), it will leave a greater impact.

"It will also put Malaysia in good light," he added.

He was commenting on DAP's call on Saturday for the Government to issue a White Paper on the ICG report as it was important to counter international perception of the country as a "terror centre."

By creating suspicions about Malaysia's Islamic state, which

was tolerant, moderate and democratic, Zainuddin said, the DAP had indirectly given a misinterpretation of Malaysia.

"The DAP is trying to portray Malaysia as a clerical state, intolerable and extreme. The DAP does not want to admit that Malaysia is a democratic Islamic state," he said.

Zainuddin said Malaysia had proven that any law concerning Muslims in the country had to be brought to Parliament, adding that it was not fair for the DAP to continue to try to "frighten people" with regard to the Islamic state Dr Mahathir had declared.

"I don't think (DAP chairman) Lim Kit Siang is honest in asking the Government to publish the White Paper," he said, adding that the DAP had been playing the old style of politics by confusing the people.