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DAP agrees with BN leaders about by-election results

IPOH, Mon. - The DAP agrees with Barisan Nasional component party leaders that the Indera Kayangan by-election result was a clear and resounding vote against a Pas-style Islamic State.

However, its chairman Lim Kit Siang disagrees that the 4,279 votes received by the BN candidate Ooi Ah Lan tantamount to an endorsement of an Islamic State ala-Umno.

"The by-election was a choice between Pas and Umno type of Islamic State but the people were never made to realise that this was a false option," he said.

Lim said this at a forum on "Should Malaysia become an Islamic State?" at a hotel here last night.

He added that the DAP decided not to assist Parti Keadilan Nasional in the by-election campaign because DAP had no role in it since Keadilan and Pas disagreed with it on the post-Sept 11 political scenario and the Islamic State question.

"The BN fully exploited the 911 (Sept 11) terror card as well as painted the Barisan Alternatif as standing for a Taliban Malaysia," he said.

Meanwhile, Just International president Dr Chandra Muzaffar said it was still unclear what sort of Islamic State Pas would like to set up if it came to power.

He said there was also no uniformity in the Islamic State concept practised in countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, Sudan and Kuwait.

Chandra said non-Muslims would likely have a limited role in the civil service, politics, armed forces and the judiciary under the Pas rule if it was based on the Quran and Sunnah. (see CORRECTION above)

"The role of women will be drastically marginalised while power will be centred in the hands of the ulama," he said.

Chandra acknowledged that under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership, women's status had been elevated.

"There are three women in his Cabinet and several others holding key positions in the civil service", he said.

(END)