

06 JUL 2002
Kit Siang-Campaign
DAP LAUNCHES SECOND PHASE OF "NO TO 929" CAMPAIGN

PENANG, July 6 (Bernama) -- The DAP today launched the second phase of its "No to 911, No to 929, Yes to 1957" people's awareness campaign in Penang with a quote from first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj, to get public support against Malaysia becoming an Islamic state.

Its National Chairman, Lim Kit Siang launched the campaign by distributing free posters of Tunku Abdul Rahman with his own quote -- "Don't Turn Malaysia Into An Islamic State" -- to the public at a market in Jalan Prangin here today.

He said besides posters, the DAP was also selling his books entitled "No to 929" at a price of RM5 each and hoped to sell one book at every house visited.

Speaking at a press conference at the DAP Headquarters here, Lim said his party through the process of "one man one vote" would stop Malaysia from being turned into an Islamic State.

The awareness campaign was first launched in May 2002.

Lim quoted Tunku Abdul Rahman as having said that Malaysia should not be turned into an Islamic state because the country had a multi-racial population with various beliefs when he celebrated his 80th birthday on Feb 8, 1983.

Lim reiterated that the campaign to defend and uphold the 1957 Merdeka Constitution, the "social contract" and the 1963 Malaysia Agreement was not anti-Malay or anti-Islam. It was a reaffirmation that this country is a democratic, secular, multi-religious, tolerant and progressive nation with Islam as the official religion but Malaysia is not an Islamic state -- whether of the UMNO or PAS model.

He said the position of Islam as the official religion and Malaysia remaining a secular state was the official stand of the first three Prime Ministers, Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak and Tun Hussein Onn and during the early years of the fourth Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Kit Siang also said that the DAP was expected to receive a report from party lawyers next week on whether criminal and civil proceedings should be instituted against Gerakan President, Datuk Seri Dr Lim Kheng Yaik for trying to distort the DAP's "No to 911, No to 929, Yes to 1957" people's awareness campaign as anti-Malay and anti-Islam.

He said party lawyers have been instructed to study in depth the speech by Kheng Yaik when opening the Penang State Gerakan delegates conference here on June 23 alleging that the DAP's "No to 929" campaign was aimed at pitting Muslims against non-Muslim.

He said that the campaign is pro-all races and pro-all religions in the country.

Kit Siang also called on Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to confirm or clarify whether it was true as claimed by Keadilan Central Publicity Bureau (CPB) that UMNO had a secret agenda to establish a fundamentalist Islamic state in Malaysia as he had been an UMNO leader for 18 years.

He said the Keadilan CPB's statement about Umno's secret plan was carried in the Chinese press today.

On the issue of the next Deputy Prime Minister, Lim Kit Siang said Malaysians were entitled to know how Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was going to decide on his deputy.

He said people wanted to know whether Abdullah would decide it himself

or would let the Umno delegates decide it.

-- BERNAMA

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