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DAP: Wrong for PM to criticise us

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The DAP today said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was wrong to criticise the party for its campaign against his declaration in September last year that Malaysia was already an Islamic state.

DAP deputy chairman Karpal Singh said the Prime Minister could not unilaterally declare the country as Islamic due to Article 3(1) of the Federal Constitution which clearly proclaims the country a secular State.

"I call upon the Attorney-General, as the legal adviser to the Cabinet under Article 145(2), to advise the Prime Minister on the reality and impact of Article 3(1)," he said.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir lambasted the DAP for its campaign against the declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic state.

He said Malaysia was internationally recognised as a model Islamic nation whose population was liberal and prepared to live harmoniously with those of other faiths.

Karpal said the country's first three Prime Ministers did not think it fit to declare Malaysia an Islamic state.

"Perhaps, being lawyers, they understood the impact and importance of the provisions of Article 3(1).

"It was the DAP which from the outset criticised and opposed Pas' intention to set up an Islamic state," he said.

He said the DAP would not hesitate to seek a judicial pronouncement on the Prime Minister's declaration that Malaysia is an Islamic state if he (Dr Mahathir) insisted in repeating what obviously contravened the provisions of Article 3(1).

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