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DAP backs PM's stand on attacks

PENANG, Sun. - DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang supports Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's view that Malaysia is not to be blamed for the Sept 11 attacks.

"I agree with Dr Mahathir that Jane's Intelligence Review (a defence and intelligence magazine) had made too far-fetched an assumption that the attacks could have been prevented if Malaysia had arrested two suspected terrorists reportedly seen in Kuala Lumpur. It is ridiculous to partly blame Malaysia as the Americans had been given all the information about the terrorists by Malaysian authorities."

He said the Sept 11 attacks were partly due to the failure of the American intelligence community.

"There should be no attempt to try and parcel off the colossal American intelligence failure on to other countries," he said.

Singapore's Berita Harian had quoted Jane's Intelligence Review which claimed the attacks could have been prevented had Malaysian police arrested two suspected terrorists - Khalid Al-Midhar and Nawaf Al-Azmi - who were in Malaysia as tourists from Aug 5-8, 2000, and who were alleged to have flown the plane which slammed into the Pentagon building.

Malaysia must be concerned about other revelations in the article, "Al-Qaeda: The Asian Connection", Lim said.

The article claimed that although the Al-Qaeda network in the US, Europe and East Africa had been disrupted significantly, its network of cells and support structures in Asia remains virtually intact.

It warned that "considering the ease with which Al-Qaeda could mount an operation in a Muslim country or a country with a substantial Muslim population, countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines become vulnerable".

Lim said the DAP was concerned with some of the points raised and would seek a briefing from Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai.

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