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Zainudin-Chin Peng

ZAINUDIN AMAZED BY CALLS FOR CHIN PENG'S RETURN

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainudin Maidin said today that he is amazed that there are Malaysians who are campaigning for the return of Chin Peng, the former secretary-general of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM).

He said Chin Peng was no hero who struggled for the country's independence, but rather a communist terrorist who committed murders in cold blood during the Malayan Emergency -- 1948-1960.

"We have to remember Chin Peng is a communist. Once a communist always a communist. He is a rebel and a traitor to this country," Zainudin said after launching the Information Ministry's Quality Day celebrations here.

Zainudin said this when commenting on the statement by DAP Chairman Lim Kit Siang in which he appealed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to allow Chin Peng to return to Malaysia, before he retired on Oct 31.

Zainudin said people who were for Chin Peng's return to Malaysia should remember the feelings of the ex-servicemen and the many Malaysians including estate and tin mine workers who struggled against his fellow terrorists and in the process were tortured, killed or maimed.

Zainuddin said he was also amazed how a book portraying Chin Peng as a hero could be published in Singapore which was a staunchly non-communist country.

"I was wondering how the book can be printed in Singapore when (Datuk) Lee Kuan Yew (former Singapore Prime Minister) is a very strong non-communist. Lim Kit Siang also appears determined that the book should be read," he said.

Zainudin nevertheless said that he was not asking Malaysians not to read the book but they should be able to evaluate it from the aspect of this country's history.

Zainudin also advised the press "not to promote" Chin Peng's return to Malaysia.

Chin Peng is now in exile in Thailand after dissolving the CPM following an agreement to lay down arms and renounce terrorism, which he signed with the Malaysian and Thai governments in 1989.

-- BERNAMA

SSA AHH AAM