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Zainudin-Kit Siang

KIT SIANG JUST WANTS TO MAKE HIS PRESENCE FELT, SAYS ZAINUDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, June 12 (Bernama) -- Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainudin Maidin said today that the move by opposition leader Lim Kit Siang to question the declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic state can be regarded as an attempt to make his presence felt.

"Kit Siang, I believe, has attempted a calculative move to make his presence felt," he said here.

He said that by pointing a finger at the government, Lim seemed to be trying to scare the public especially the non-Muslims over such a declaration.

But the fact remains that the people, whether Muslims or non-Muslims, were now not faced with a situation as painted by Lim as their rights had not be impinged upon, he said.

Zainudin said that the people were also now feeling more secured than before the general election.

"As such, the people have inflicted their punishment, reducing the position of the DAP in parliament and Kit Siang is trying to show that his presence is even stronger than it actually is," he said.

Zainuddin also reminded Lim that the people now were no longer the same as when he represented them previously.

"Most of them have the wisdom to see his true colours," he said.

At the Dewan Rakyat sitting on June 8, Lim questioned the declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic state by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 2001, resulting in a shouting match between him and several government backbenchers.

Lim has said that based on the constitution and social contract, Malaysia is a secular democratic country with Islam as its official religion and as such cannot be regarded as an Islamic state by any definition or by virtue of any declaration.

Zainudin said that the opposition leader had taken advantage by raising the Islamic state issue during the debate on the motion of thanks for the royal address.

"I tried many times to interject but he refused to allow me to...because he had again brought up and disputed the Islamic state declaration," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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