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Gerakan-Kit Siang

KIT SIANG TRYING TO GAIN POLITICAL MILEAGE, SAYS GERAKAN

KUALA LUMPUR, June 13 (Bernama) -- Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang may be trying to gain political mileage when dwelling on the status of Malaysia as an Islamic country, Gerakan vice-president, Senator Datuk Dr S.Vijayaratnam said today.

"It is regrettable that Kit Siang continues to harp on the Islamic state (issue). It is unwise to dwell on such a sensitive topic," he said in a statement issued here.

Dr Vijayaratnam was commenting Lim's action in the Dewan Rakyat last Wednesday by questioning the declaration in 2001 by then Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Malaysia is an Islamic country.

Lim was quoted as saying that based on the Constitution and social contract, Malaysia is a democratic secular country while Islam is its official religion, and should not be considered as an Islamic country.

Dr Vijayaratnam said when Dr Mahathir announced that Malaysia was an Islamic state, what he meant was that it has been so since that time, as described under Article 3 of the same Constitution.

"Has Lim noticed any erosion of his freedom or an alteration in the lifestyle of Malaysians from 1957 up until the present time...is he suffering?," Dr Vijayaratnam said.

Continuing to twist and turn the issue is uncalled for and it is disappointing that he continues to play it up, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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