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Najib-Kit Siang

NOT PROPER FOR KIT SIANG TO QUESTION ISLAMIC COUNTRY, NAJIB SAYS

SUNGKAI, June 10 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Tun Razak has said that it is not proper for Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang to question the status of Malaysia as an Islamic country as it is accepted by all Malaysians, irrespective of religion.

"What I see is that it is not proper to make it an issue just because Malaysia is an Islamic country," he told reporters after attending a "kenduri" or feast and launching Felda Gugusan Gunung Besout and Trolak settlers day here today.

He said there was no issue there as other countries' too had recognised Malaysia as an Islamic country.

He was commenting on Kit Siang's action in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday who questioned the declaration in 2001 by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who was then Prime Minister that Malaysia is an Islamic country.

Kit Siang has said that based on the constitution and the social contract, Malaysia is a democratic secular country while Islam is its official religion, and should not be considered as an Islamic country.

In KUALA LUMPUR, Umno Youth Chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said:

"I see that what Kit Siang said in Parliament was about political interests and I believe what he raised will back fire on him.

"For me, they (the opposition) have no issue to raise in Parliament where the Barisan Nasional (BN) government won with a bigger mandate in the recent election," he told reporters at his office.

Whatever issues raised by the opposition, he said, BN would continue to get the support of both Muslims and non-Muslims.

Malaysia, he said, was not only an Islamic country, but also a model for other Islamic countries as both Muslims and non-Muslims in this country had been living in harmony, prosperity and peace.

He also expressed concerns that Kit Siang's statement could lead to

negative implications and affect relations among various races and religions in the country.

Meanwhile, Umno Youth executive council member in charge of religious secretariat, Shamsul Najmi Shamsuddin, reminded Kit Siang to be careful when making statements about Islam which could tarnish the image of Islam and cause disunity among the community.

"Umno Youth urges Kit Siang to be careful when touching on anything about Islam so that it does not bring about disunity and destabilise the country's security," he said in a statement.

As an opposition leader, Kit Siang must realise that the democratic system gave freedom to the the rakyat to live in peace and prosperity, he said.

"I'm confident that he knows about the Islamic country concept accepted by the majority of Malaysia. Islam is not for Muslims only but rights of non-Muslims too are protected in this country," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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