

12/06/2004

Dr M invites Kit Siang to define Islamic state

PUTRAJAYA, Fri. - What is DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang's definition of an Islamic state?

Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (picture) posed this question today in response to the Opposition leader's recent comments on the matter.

"If Lim thinks Malaysia is not an Islamic state, then he should define it," said Dr Mahathir.

He said he had declared Malaysia an Islamic state on the basis that the majority of people were Muslims. The Federal Constitution also stated that Islam was the official religion.

"I don't see the wrong in declaring Malaysia an Islamic state," he said at a Press conference at Yayasan Kepimpinan Perdana.

Dr Mahathir said although Islam was the official religion, there were no laws demanding that all Malaysians embrace the faith.

Although there were no conditions in the Constitution stating that the head of Government should be a Muslim, the post was naturally held by one as Muslims formed the majority.

(END)