

21/10/2003

Kit Siang agrees to debate with Keng Yaik on Islamic state issue

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang has agreed to debate with Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik on the declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic state.

He also proposed a series of nationwide, State-by-State debates on the issue in Bahasa Malaysia, English and Chinese, beginning December and set a condition that there should be no personal attacks, race-baiting and religious denigration during the debate.

"I welcome and accept the challenge from Keng Yaik," he said in a statement today.

On Sunday, Keng Yaik said Gerakan would take on Kit Siang in challenging the DAP's views against the declaration by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Sept 29, 2001, that Malaysia was already an Islamic state.

Keng Yaik had said the DAP's opposition to the declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic state was done to put fear among Chinese voters and considered it as dangerous politicking by the DAP.