

**DAP moves to ease fears over Islamic state**  
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Following attempts by Umno and MCA to intimidate Chinese voters in Tenang with PAS' Islamic state agenda, DAP is moving to allay such fears, stressing that PAS is now a party that fights for all ethnic groups.

"MCA is sleeping, thinking that it is still 1999 when people were afraid of an Islamic state. In fact, PAS is now talking about a welfare state and its battles for the benefit of all races," Johor DAP chief Dr Boo Cheng Hau said at a DAP dinner in Labis last night.

"Umno is the one still talking racial politics. We don't call our home minister Hishammuddin (Hussein), we call him Kerismuddin because he always brandishes the keris."

Besides Boo, other DAP leaders expressed their support for PAS at the RM50 a head fund-raising dinner attended by some 800 passionate Chinese supporters, where DAP also raised another RM4,555 in on-the-spot donations.

DAP Rasah MP Anthony Loke rebutted MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek's statement earlier that Chinese who voted for PAS would be sending the Malay community the message that they were willing to accept the country as an Islamic state.

"We will vote for PAS on Jan 30 for a fair and corruption-free government, not for an Islamic state. We vote to change the government, not merely for PAS, nor an Islamic state," Loke (right) said.

The party youth chief then turned aggressive: "If we vote for Umno, it means that we accept Umno's continued oppression of us and allow the party to continue its extreme racial statements and behaviour."

**Islamic state is not Pakatan common policy**

His statement was echoed by DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang, who pointed out that Penang, Selangor and Perak, which are ruled by Pakatan Rakyat, have not turned into Islamic states.

"We support (PAS candidate) Normala (Sudirman) and PAS, not because we support an Islamic state. Pakatan's common agenda is anti-corruption, a fair and equal government, and independent and professional state institutions."

Lim conceded that while some PAS leaders were adamant in their push for an Islamic state agenda, this was not part of Pakatan's common policy.

"Any Pakatan policy must be agreed to by all three parties. Each party can have its own policy, but only those agreed to by all three parties will become Pakatan's common policy," the Ipoh Timur MP pointed out.

He then questioned the logic of the BN component parties' allegations. "MCA said DAP betrays the non-Muslims, Umno said PKR betrays the Malays, and Umno also said PAS

betrays Islam. This means we betray everything... is that possible?" Lim asked.

Earlier Loke's speech on the roles played by the prime minister's wife, Rosmah Mansor, drew rounds of laughter from the floor.

He described the self-claimed first lady as "the 40-40-40 fat lady" and slammed her for representing her husband in meetings with foreign dignitaries while the he was down with chickenpox, for holding the 'First Ladies Summit' and for making official visits to Saudi Arabia and Oman.

"A few days ago she flew back from Oman to Sarawak to receive her 'datuk' title and attend pek mo's (nickname for Sarawak Chief Minister Taib Mahmud) wedding party, and then flew back to Oman to continue with her visit. How much of the people's money has she spent?

### **Loud cheers for PAS candidate**

"There is no country like this. You are just the prime minister's wife, you cannot represent us, we didn't vote for you," said Loke.

"We must tell this fat lady that she is not qualified to represent us!" Loke added to cheering from the audience.

normala sudirman at dap dinner in tenangBoth Loke and Lim also cited the recent achievement by Pakatan-ruled Penang in topping the country with RM12.2 billion worth of capital investments in 2010 as hard proof that Pakatan is eligible to rule the nation.

Among other Pakatan leaders who spoke at the dinner were Johor PKR chief Chua Jui Meng and DAP vice-chairperson M Kulasegaran. Controversial Bukit Bintang PKR division chief Lee Chong Meng also attended the dinner.

Normala gave a brief speech, calling on voters to support Pakatan. She tried to impress the Chinese crowd by using the Mandarin words gai ge (reformasi) and xie xie (thank you), and earned a big round of applause.

Her appearance was well-received by the Chinese crowd, who showered her with cheers and applause.