

DPM slams 'insensitive DAP' for criticizing Israeli visa denial

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Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today slammed "insensitive DAP" for criticising the government's rejection of entry visa for two Israel windsurfers.

"Do not look at the aspect from your own element, but look at the sensitivity of the majority of the people in this country," Zahid said at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur.

"We have a clear diplomatic policy with Israel. The steps taken by DAP are beyond our policy," Zahid said.

Perak DAP economic development bureau chief Chong Zhemin yesterday criticised Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin for hiding behind Putrajaya in the denial of visas to windsurfers Yoav Omer and Noy Drihan to participate in the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) championship in Langkawi.

Without naming Amanah, the Umno vice-president pointed out that even DAP's allies have a different stance from DAP.

It was reported that Amanah Youth vice-chief Mohd Fakhrulrazi Mohd Mokhtar expressed disappointment over DAP's stance that had hurt the feelings of the public, especially Muslims and peace-lovers.

However Penang Deputy Chief Minister II P Ramasamy said the government should explain why they had invited the Israeli athletes to the tournament in the first place.

"Simple: if Malaysia has no diplomatic relations with Israel, why invite the athletes and put some impossible conditions for them to fulfill?" said Ramasamy in a comment today.

On another matter, Zahid, who is also an Umno vice-president, declined to respond when asked to comment Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Ahmad Maslan's suggestion for people in the lower income group to take on two jobs.

"You better ask the question directly to him. No. It is really unfair for me to (respond). He raised up the question, you have to ask details from him," Zahid said.

Ahmad, who is also the Umno information chief, said the government also encouraged the people to take second job to make extra money.

"I think it's not wrong (to have two jobs) in Malaysia, though we have regulations but it is still one way to address the rising cost of living," Astro Awani quoted him as saying on Saturday

"They can work during office hours (from 8am to 5pm) and still run their online business... as long as they have enough sleep and come to work. They can also run their businesses on weekends," said Ahmad.

It is not uncommon to find that most people in countries around the world are also working two jobs, said the Pontian MP.

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