

Pakatan leaders must speak up for secular rule, says Zaid
Free Malaysia Today
May 15, 2017

Former minister rails into opposition leaders for not standing up to threat of Islamic radicalism, says PPBM chairman Dr Mahathir Mohamad is a lone voice.

PETALING JAYA: Zaid Ibrahim is not letting up on his comments against Pakatan Harapan leaders who shy away from standing up for the basic tenets of the country's constitution, arguing that this is expected of anyone wanting to lead the country.

In a series of tweets sent this morning, the former minister said the country's secular status must be maintained over any effort to impose Islamic laws on the people.

The first three tweets read: "If you want to be leader of a multireligious country, you must be willing to defend secular institutions and laws."

"Only a secular country can ensure freedom and personal choice, and religious laws do not."

"They don't understand that public laws and policies must be based on the singular concept that our Constitution is secular."

Zaid also made an obvious push for PPBM chairman Dr Mahathir Mohamad to lead the opposition challenge against the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the next general election (GE14) with his fourth message.

"Muslim leaders in Pakatan (with the exception of Tun) are always afraid of answering questions about hudud. Wan Azizah is just one them," he said, referring to the former prime minister by his honorific title "Tun", in comparison with other Pakatan leaders, including PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Last Friday, at a DAP fundraising event at the Tropicana Golf Resort, Zaid warned that the greatest threat to Malaysia today is Islamic radicalism.

"Islamic radicalism spells the death of our way of life and our free society.

"We will have the imposition of an extremist Wahhabi rule that will tell us what clothes we can wear and what things we can say," he said, adding that Islamic radicalism is a greater threat than the kleptocracy the opposition have been rallying against so vehemently.

Highlighting the cooperation between Prime Minister Najib Razak and PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang, the presence of Islamic preacher Zakir Naik and “projects” approved by Saudi Arabia, Zaid said there is no doubt in his mind as to which direction a Barisan Nasional-led government will take the country.

“The die is cast where the BN is concerned. Today, we already have an ‘Islamic science university’ funded by the Saudis and the Muslim League.

“We will have the King Salman Centre for International Peace in Malaysia, and yet only two weeks ago the deputy heir to the Saudi throne, Prince Mohamed, labelled Iran as a ‘threat to Islam’ and agitated for war.

“We also have Zakir Naik, who was offered a whole island off Terengganu to use as his centre, and to bring all his evangelical operations from India to this country. He is now a hero to Umno and the BN,” Zaid said, asking “Do you need more evidence of radicalisation?”

Zaid, who joined DAP in February this year, told the audience at the DAP event that Pakatan Harapan has not done anything to deal with this phenomena of Islamic radicalism, before suggesting some tangible actions.

“The opposition must take the lead to bring all right-thinking Muslims, and moderate Malaysians together.

“They must reach out to moderate Malays, whom I define as those who give the people a choice in how they live their lives. The moderates don’t care if anyone goes to heaven or hell because it’s not their business.

“On the other hand, a Malay who uses the police and the law to deny you this choice is not a moderate. He is a radical,” Zaid said.

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Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2017/05/15/pakatan-leaders-must-speak-up-for-secular-rule-says-zaid/>