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Parliament-Contract

BN GOVT ADHERES TO SOCIAL CONTRACT IN CONSTITUTION, SAYS NOH

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) Government has steadfastly held to the social contract enshrined in the Federal Constitution and practised power-sharing system, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

As such, there was no truth in claims that it practised racist policies, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Noh Omar said.

He said the BN, made up of component parties representing all races in the country, including minorities, adopted the consensus approach in deciding on a policy and the country's administration.

He said every race had its rights and freedom which were respected by other races, especially in the education field.

"We have consensus. Every race has its rights and freedom. Like in the Chinese school issue, there is no country like Malaysia.

"In Australia, for instance, there are Chinese but there are no Chinese schools, in Singapore, 90 per cent of the population are Chinese, but there are no Chinese schools, but we have all these in Malaysia.

"In fact, Chinese schools will exist forever in Malaysia, we cannot close them," he said when replying to Tan Kok Wai (DAP-Cheras) during question time.

Noh chided Tan for his racist attitude and only spoke for the Chinese interests and not touching on issues affecting other races.

He said policies implemented by the government, especially the New Economic Policy, had brought progress to all races although there were certain groups which refused to accept the reality of the social contract.

Replying to Datuk Ruhanie Ahmad (BN-Parit Sulong), he said, the Vision 2020 was aimed at creating a progressive Malaysian race consisting of various races living in peace and harmony under one power of administration.

"We hold to the social contract and we overcome problems at the negotiation table and not by confrontation," he said.

Noh's reply on the government sticking to the social contract and DAP being a racist party drew protest from several DAP MPs.

As soon as Noh finished replying to Ruhanie's question, Kerk Kim Hock (DAP-Kota Melaka) stood up, citing Standing Orders 26 (10) that the reply was hurtful and twisted the question.

Noh stood up to deny Kerk's claim and accused Tan of not understanding the social contract in the constitution. He Asked the DAP MP to read the constitution.

Tan, unhappy over Noh's reply, protested and this led to a exchange of words between the opposition and backbenchers.

DAP MPs Fong Kui Lun (Bukit Bintang), Chow Kon Yeow (Tanjung), Chong Eng (Bukit Mertajam) and Teresa Kok (Seputeh) stood up to give their views and several backbenchers also stood up to counter.

The situation became noisy in the House until Deputy Speaker Datuk Muhamad Abdullah reminded them of the Standing Orders and instructed them to sit down.

Earlier, replying to Tan's original question, Noh said the Malays new dilemma as meant by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was whether they would continue to depend on the government or learn to stand on their own feet and compete with others without relying on government

aid.

Noh said some Malays agreed that it was time they survived without government assistance but majority of them rejected the view.

He said Malays were religious but easily influenced and gave importance to worldly matters than the true teachings of Islam.

-- BERNAMA

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