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'Pas has infiltrated civil service and misinterpreted policies'

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PAS has over the past few years infiltrated the civil service, resulting in well-intended government policies being misinterpreted, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said.

In his winding-up speech, he said he had seen how civil servants who were influenced by Pas implemented policies based on their narrow views.

Citing an example when he recently returned to his alma mater in St Michael's Institution in Ipoh, Dr Lim said only a handful of female Muslim teachers shook his hands when they lined up to welcome him.

"This is proof that Pas has infiltrated the civil service," said Dr Lim, adding that he was furious at the mindset of these civil servants who were supposed to support the Government.

Dr Lim, who is also Primary Industries Minister, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said the atmosphere in national schools had also turned very Islamic.

This, Dr Lim said, had resulted in the non-Malays shunning the national schools.

Dr Lim also said the party was in favour of setting up Vision Schools as it was in line with Gerakan's policy of promoting a Bangsa Malaysia.

However, he said the implementation of such schools should be done carefully as there were many sensitivities to observe in these institutions.

He asked party members to come up with ideas on how Vision Schools should be run for them to meet their objective of promoting racial integration but still giving priority to mother tongue education.

On the 2:4:3 formula using English to teach Science and Mathematics in Chinese primary schools, Dr Lim said a new approach was needed to teach the subjects in English in Standards Four to Six.

He said the 2:4:3 formula could not be applied in upper primary level because students in Standards Four to Six were already bogged down by the increased number of subjects. Extending the schooling hour would be impossible.

On the party's preparations for the general election, Dr Lim said one problem Gerakan often faced was the selection of candidates.

"Can you select a person who has been in the party for 35 years but cannot perform? This is not the time for the party to reward those who are loyal only."

He said those selected must be bersih, cekap dan amanah (clean, efficient and trustworthy) and asked delegates to have confidence in the party's central committee in selecting candidates.