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PR status does not make one disloyal

By Rita Sim

CONSIDERING Malaysians who take up Permanent Resident (PR) status in another country as automatically being disloyal to Malaysia is short-sighted. In today's globalising world, are we suggesting that Malaysians should be co-erced into again becoming like katak di bawah tempurung?

Certainly, the Malaysian Government's policy has never been to treat Malaysians with PR status abroad as less Malaysian. Quite the contrary, from the early 1990s, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has repeatedly encouraged Malaysians to venture forth into the world.

Malaysia Inc is all about expanding beyond Malaysian shores. Malaysian businessmen were encouraged to globalise their business interests.

And it is sometimes pragmatic to take up permanent residence status in a country in which they are doing a great deal of business.

Are we seriously arguing that such businessmen should now be considered disloyal? If so, the implications for the future are vast.

In fact, saying that PR status equals disloyalty may actually promote the brain drain. Malaysians who have acquired permanent residence status in Canada, Australia, UK, the United States, etc, may actually be discouraged from returning because they fear they will be accused of being disloyal.

In this context, there is nothing wrong with Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen's ex-PR status.

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