

DAP takes on Umno over 'racist' mindset
Malaysiakini.com
July 12, 2011

DAP national secretary-general Lim Guan Eng has lashed out at Umno for allegedly insulting Chinese Malaysians by issuing 'racist and disrespectful' statements.

Lim, who is Bagan MP, pointed squarely at Malacca Chief Minister Mohd Ali Rustam, accusing him displaying a "shallow and racist" mindset by insulting the community over the issue of gambling.

Mohd Ali had apparently defended Housing, Local Government and Environment Committee chairperson Mohd Yunos Husin over the latter's comment on the issuance of gambling licences.

Mohd Ali had intervened in a current state assembly sitting, saying that Mohd Yunos was merely asserting a fact, as the culture is prevalent among some Chinese.

In a statement issued today, Lim criticised Mohd Ali's statement, noting that gambling has never been part of the Chinese culture.

"However, because he and the rest of his party are unable to explain why they have to issue gambling licences, they attempt to apportion blame on the Chinese," said Lim, who is Penang chief minister.

"Instead of repenting such a controversial and narrow-minded remark, Mohd Ali added that 'as we generally know, the Chinese love to gamble and it's part of their culture'."

Lim urged Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to take swift and firm action against Mohd Ali (left), saying such "openly racist remarks" should not come from a chief minister.

Lim was responding to the suspension of several DAP assemblymen from the Malacca state assembly for insisting that Mohd Ali should retract his remark.

Khoo Poay Tiong (Ayer Keroh), Betty Chew (Kota Laksamana), Lim Jack Wong (Bachang) and Tey Kok Kiew (Bandar Hilir) were suspended, following Goh Leong San's (Kesidang) ejection from the House yesterday.

Their suspension left the state assembly without any opposition representative for the remainder of the sitting, which ends tomorrow.

When contacted, Goh said he believes this is the first time that all opposition assemblypersons have been suspended.

"As far as I know, this has never happened in our country," he claimed.

BN's 'racist strategies'

Lim also said BN and Umno are stooping to racial games, saying they had felt threatened by the massive Bersih 2.0 rally in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.

He added that this was another clear example of BN leaders treating Malaysians with disrespect.

"When they are faced with mounting pressure and hostile public opinion, they once again turn to the only avenue they know - racial politics," he said.

In the aftermath of the rally, he said, BN had first played on Malay sentiments by claiming that the community has become lackeys and are being used to fulfil the non-Malays' agenda.

To justify their allegation, they claimed that nearly all the participants in the rally were Malays while the non-Malays had stayed behind, he added.

"Such a claim is categorically untrue as footage and photos of the rally that are available online and in various foreign media show strong multiracial participation.

"In fact, one of the key compliments raised by participants in the rally was the fact that all Malaysians, whether Malay, Chinese or Indian, of varying ages and social backgrounds, had the courage to stand up for their rights in the face of police hostility and the threat of arrest."

Lim said BN later focused its sights on the Indian community by attacking Bersih chief Ambiga Sreenevasan, by calling for her citizenship to be revoked, even though such a demand is unconstitutional and seditious.

"Is this what they mean by 1Malaysia? If the BN truly respects the prime minister's call for 1Malaysia, then they should make a public apology to all Malaysians for such derogatory remarks."

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