

**Lim fires another salvo at Rais over BM use in Penang**  
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Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng and Information, Communications and Culture Minister Rais Yatim continue to argue over whether Penang has neglected the use of the country's national language, Bahasa Malaysia.

Lim fired another salvo at Rais, urging him to stop his "dangerous game of portraying himself as a Bahasa Malaysia hero" by denying that he (Lim) had also spoken in the language at a private function in Penang.

Lim (left) described Rais' remarks as a "series of malicious lies", saying that the latter has continued with "harsh and personal attacks" against him.

He added that Rais has no sense of right or wrong for holding the state government responsible for an event organised by a private body.

He stressed that the minister had also refused to admit that the Penang chief minister had also spoken in Bahasa Malaysia.

Lim accused Rais of lying when he first said that only he spoke some Bahasa Malaysia at the Han Chiang College dinner on Sept 29, when he represented Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

"Rais' claims that he was the only person speaking Bahasa Malaysia that night is false as I had also spoken in Bahasa Malaysia, English and Mandarin," said Lim in a statement.

rais yatim pc 020709 01 "Rais (right) also spoke some Chinese at the event.

"Why is Rais trying to portray himself as a Malay language champion by denying that I had also spoken in Bahasa Malaysia?" he queried.

Yesterday, the Jelebu MP hit back at Lim for calling him a liar for accusing the state government of sidelining the national language.

Rais said there were no grounds for Lim to say he lied like Umno-owned Malay language daily Utusan Malaysia as the presenters at Han Chiang (College) that night did not even use a word of the national language.

'Function organised by private college'

However, Lim said Rais is wrong to treat the Han Chiang event as a Penang government event when it was organised by the private college.

He added that clearly those who wish to explain away or cover up their lies would have to make another lie.

Lim was miffed with Rais for stating that he should have advised his konco-konco (followers) at the Han Chiang College to respect the national language.

"The use of the words konco-konco (followers) is unwarranted because those managing Han Chiang are involved in education and not in political partisanship," said Lim.

"Rais is not just rude and disrespectful to the organisers but has also breached protocol by asking the

state government to interfere in a function meant for the prime minister,” he added.

“I wish to stress that the state government has no role whatsoever in the organisation of the Sept 29 function at Han Chiang College,” he said, urging Rais to complain to the institution instead of attacking him.

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