

'Umno desperate, drags CM's son into dirty politics'

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By Susan Loone

Penang Deputy Chief Minister I Mansor Othman has condemned those who dragged children into filthy political mud-slinging, saying they should be protected, not persecuted.

Mansor accused the Barisan Nasional and Umno of playing "politics without principles" by accusing Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng's son of allegedly outraging the modesty of a female classmate.

"This show how low is the political ethics of the BN and Umno leaders who are willing to use such dirty political tactics to kill off the political careers of their opponents," said Mansor during a press conference today.

NONE "It is quite shameless when power craziness has led BN and Umno to continue to do whatever it takes to retain power," added Mansor, who is Penang PKR chief.

Mansor (left) was referring to allegations by pro-Umno blogger 'Papagomo', who accused Lim of trying to cover up his son's alleged misdeeds.

He alleged that the DAP secretary-general had purportedly paid a large sum of money to keep the matter under wraps by transferring the son to another school.

He had also used a fake photograph to depict the victim of alleged molest by Lim's 16-year-old son.

On Tuesday, an incensed Lim castigated pro-Umno bloggers for trying to finish off his political career by wrecking the life of his teenage son with "morally despicable and barbaric" lies.

Mansor said BN and Umno has eventually dragged Lim's son into the picture as they have become desperate after feeling incapable of recapturing Penang through policy and administrative issues.

'Politically bankrupt'

He added that their opponents are "politically bankrupt" and unable to attack the Pakatan Rakyat government in Penang over how it governs the state.

"This is because the state government favours the people in its administration, for example, by providing monetary awards to seniors citizens, children, single mothers and the disabled," he stressed.

Meanwhile, Mansor urged Women, Family and Community Development Minister Shahrizat Abdul Jalil to protect children who are in danger of abuse, sexual assault and worst of all, political attacks.

He expressed hope that Sharizat will not remain silent on the matter, saying that the world is about to celebrate Children's Day on Oct 22, with the theme 'Promote Charisma of Children'.

"How do we promote children's charisma if they continue to be dragged into the arena of dirty politics?" he asked.

"Children are the country's future development continuity and should be protected, not maligned," he added.

Today, Sharizat said children should not be dragged into political mud-slinging, regardless of whether it is the opposition being targeted or the BN government.

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