

Hold vote on housing loan, Nurul urges minister
MalaysiaKini.com
February 15,2012

Lembah Pantai parliamentarian Nurul Izzah Anwar has suggested that a referendum be held among residents of public housing to see if they would opt for the housing loan scheme mooted by the government.

NONEIn an open letter to the Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing Minister Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin, Nurul (right) said residents should be asked which of the following three options they would prefer:

- 1) The government's proposal for a loan scheme supported by the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) at 6.5 percent interest rate;
- 2) A government soft loan similar to the one extended to the National Feedlot Corporation at 2 percent interest rate; or
- 3) An interest free hire-purchase scheme.

"Options two and three can be offered as the minister had previously stated that the government has sufficient funds, despite sourcing funds from EPF," she said, adding that Pakatan Rakyat fully supports the scheme's intention of providing housing for the lower-income people.

Giving an example of a RM35,000 low-cost house, the PKR parliamentarian said those opting for the hire-purchase scheme will have to pay RM117 a month (excluding maintenance fees).

"Low-cost public housing has already been built by the DBKL and are already occupied, and its costs have already been accounted for.

"The government need not borrow from EPF or any financial institution," she said, adding that such a scheme should also be extended nationwide.

Facing criticisms, the EPF has explained that the move was a sound investment venture with the government-guaranteed 5.5 percent returns per annum.

The risk will be borne by a special purpose vehicle of the Federal Territories Foundation, which will screen the applicants.

It added that while the agreement has not been signed, it entails an initial facility of RM300 million with further loans at the discretion of the EPF investment panel.

The government had announced that the target of the scheme would be to help those who cannot get access to credit via conventional commercial means.

Don't let Perkasa join KFC fray
MalaysiaKini.com
February 12,2012

YOURSAY 'Not much of a peep from KFC's management so far, so I guess they are content to allow Perkasa to speak for them.'

KFC fist fight: Perkasa jumps into the barrel

your sayFerdan: As usual, Perkasa comes out with statements smelling of racial insinuation. This is not politics, but a customer relationship issue; compounded with a criminal case of assault.

If the KFC management doesn't come out in public through the mainstream media quickly to arrest the worsening situation (where race sensitivity is being exploited), then KFC may be faced with a call for a total boycott of its outlets. That would be their own fault.

Don't just give the same standard assurances and platitudes in your Facebook. Be pro-active.

True Sarawakian: The moment Perkasa secretary-general Syed Hassan Syed Ali opens his mouth, it smells of racial venom.

The way I look at it, it is a simple case of an unsatisfactory customer venting his anger (over-anger, I think) against a staff member who not only did not try to be in a diplomatic, but instead scolded back, kicked and punched.

Rocky: So a customer has no right to scold or be upset with the service they are given. But the seller, in this case server, has a right to beat up a customer. Well, race issue it will be and Perkasa will make it one.

Blind Freddo: What has it got to do with Perkasa - nothing. If the idiots from Perkasa didn't keep waffling on about Malay rights then perhaps the Malays would come to accept there was nothing special about them, and maybe then they would begin to act like normal human beings.

You are behaving like interfering old women who have nothing else to do but stir up trouble.

Mirror thyself: Syed Hassan, we would appreciate your civility if you could help probe into the NFC (National Feedlot Corporation) fiasco. Would you agree that NFC is challenging the rakyat's right to know the truth?

Opah: Not much of a peep from KFC's management so far, so I guess they are content to allow Perkasa to speak for them.

OMG: Perkasa is teaching the youth that it's okay to react with violence when faced with complaints.

There is no excuse for violence, period. Violence is the recourse of the weak-minded who do not have the intellectual strength for discourse.

Lbl: Syed Hasan agrees that the KFC workers have the right to use force if the customer shouts at them. I dread to think what happens if you have him as a law enforcement officer? More brawn than brains?

Tell the Truth: Just take a look at the video clip and you will know that the KFC staff did attack the customer. Regardless of provocation, if any, no one, least of all the staff of KFC, has any right to beat up their customer.

It is a criminal act to beat up someone. What do you mean the public is attacking the KFC staff and not giving them a chance to explain? When interviewed by Malaysiakini, the chicken of a manager declined to talk.

Malaysian Born: KFC is a good company. What happened was an anomaly and will need to be dealt with by management to ensure it never happens again.

Clearly, the training of the staff and the branch management were inadequate. This problem could have been avoided altogether and certainly diffused with ease.

The staff in this case let the company down very badly and if this situation is not addressed properly very soon, it will have a very damaging effect on the company.

The last thing that KFC needs is the involvement of miscreants like Perkasa whose very name engenders ill-will and racial strife.

This has nothing to do with race, this is bad planning on the part of the restaurant and even poorer implementation, saddled with wholly inadequate training.

The young man who rushed through to punch the customer, and the management that allowed it, need some serious re-orientation. They don't need sympathy from a bunch of thugs.

Manjit Bhatia: This is quite remarkable. Everybody here agrees that Perkasa is entering the fray very likely to stir the racial pot even more.

But if you folks look through the comments in this section alone, let alone elsewhere, you'll be shocked to learn you've taken this whole issue and turned it violently into a racist one in the first place, replete with all the racism that everybody knows - including you - is the soul of Malaysia.

In a sense you've aided and abetted Perkasa into this peculiar tussle of iCity KFC (Malay Malaysian) versus Danny Ng (Chinese Malaysian) dogfight along barely peculiar racist lines.

And look at how the comments have also degenerated into equally peculiar calls for boycotting KFC outlets because they are essentially Malay-owned franchises that cater to predominantly Malay clientele who allegedly consider Chinese customers as 'babi'.

Can anybody convince me why real change in Malaysia can still truly happen?

Changeagent: I'm scratching my head very hard, trying to work out which of the following three categories KFC belongs to - race, religion or royalty?

Whatever it is, it is really good to know that Perkasa can be so passionate about KFC. For a while, I thought they didn't care about anything else besides the three 'R's since they were so quiet and indifferent about the NFC.

Mirror on the Wall: While Pakatan MPs from the DAP and PKR try to defuse the situation, Perkasa, the attack dogs of Umno are trying to make the situation worse.

Imagine, if this episode triggers a racial disturbance, it will be all over some chicken! It is a reflection of how delicate our communal relationships are at this juncture of our history.

Imagine, we are going to the dogs over chicken.

Malayamuda: This is becoming 'ketuanan Ayam'.

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