

Umno Youth ticked off over 'racial' remark
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Penang Umno Youth was bashed today for allegedly trying to stir racial sentiments over Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng's speech at a DAP fundraising dinner in Penang recently.

NONELim's political secretary Zairil Khir Johari (left) said state Umno Youth chief Shaik Hussein Mydin had said in a Sinar Harian report today that Lim only mentioned he needed the support from 90 percent Chinese and 40 percent Malays.

"He did not mention the support of the Indian community," Shaik Hussein was quoted as saying in the Malay-language paper.

"The remark is wrong and slanderous, and was intended to incite racial sentiments, especially among the Indians," said Zairil in a statement today.

"What Lim actually said was he hoped that 90 percent of the support would come from the non-Malay community, and not from the Chinese alone," he added.

Support from all communities crucial

To prove his point, Zairil provided the transcript of Lim's speech - in Mandarin, Hokkien and Malay - during the dinner on Wednesday, which was attended by about 3,000 people.

In Mandarin, Lim had reportedly said: "If you want Pakatan Rakyat to continue to be the state government, you must ensure that 90 percent of the non-Malay (votes) be given to Pakatan. Can or not?"

In the Hokkien dialect, he had reportedly said: "...90 percent Chinese, Indians and non-Malays for Pakatan, can or not?"

In Malay, Lim had reportedly said: "If we win, we must ensure strong support from Penangites, regardless (of whether they are) Malays, Chinese or Indians.

"We hope that at least we could get 40 percent support from the Malays, and we hope to get 90 percent support from the non-Malays."

Zairil said it is undeniable that Lim expressed his hope to garner support from all communities, whether Malays or non-Malays.

He added that the state government under Pakatan will continue to carry out programmes for the benefit of all needy ethnic groups, regardless of skin colour or religion.

NONEMeanwhile, Shaik Hussein (right) defended his statement, saying that an Indian friend had attended the function and related to him about Lim not seeking support from the community.

Shaik Hussein requested Zairil to post a video of Lim's speech in Malaysiakini, so that he can hear for himself whether Zairil's concerns were true.

He added that if indeed Lim had mentioned the support of the Indian community, he would apologise for his remarks made earlier.

"But Zairil's statement still does not answer the question why the three DAP Indian leaders - national chief

Karpal Singh, assemblypersons RSN Rayer (Seri Delima) and A. Thanasekran (Bagan Dalam) were absent from the dinner,” he added.

Shaik Hussein had said the absence of the trio was proof that they felt “upset” with the party’s marginalisation of the community.

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