

Guan Eng: Pakatan treats all voters fairly, why can't BN?

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DAP has slammed Muhyiddin Yassin for saying BN would emphasise serving its supporters rather than its opponents, saying it should emulate Pakatan states in treating all voters fairly.

"If Pakatan can treat everyone fairly in the states we rule, why can't BN behave like a Malaysian, and not like a bad bully that continues to discriminate and take political revenge?"

dap special meeting 110313 lim guan eng "Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin is going on a rampage to punish those who support Pakatan, especially the Chinese community.

"This makes a mockery of democracy as people should not be punished for making a free choice," said Lim in his speech at the Sarawak DAP ordinary convention in Kuching today.

He was responding to Bernama's report yesterday that quoted Muhyiddin saying the government would lay greater emphasis on sections of the society who had supported the BN in the last general election.

In the DPM's speech at a BN thanksgiving function in Kundang Ulu, Muar yesterday, Muhyiddin conspicuously left out the Chinese community in this thinly veiled message.

"The clear message is that the majority of the Malays, Indians, bumiputera, Orang Asli, Siamese community as well as those in Sabah and Sarawak still support the BN.

"We will continue to give them greater assistance, that is what we will do," he was reported saying.

Major disparities

In his speech today, Lim also suggested that Sabah and Sarawak should be given special consideration in the upcoming redelineation exercise, so that the maximum disparity of the number of voters between constituencies is no more than 100 percent instead of the baseline of 15 percent.

He pointed out that disparity in Sarawak alone is worrying, with the parliamentary constituency of Stampin 4.75 times larger than Igan, and the state constituency of Pending being 4.3 times larger than Ba'kelalan.

NONE "The focus here should be to reduce the size of these disparities. DAP appreciates that geography can be equally important as demography in a state as large as Sarawak," he said.

However, he emphasised that Sabah and Sarawak's representation in parliament would not be reduced, "out of respect for the traditional rights of both states granted when they joined Malaya in 1963 to form the Federation of Malaysia."

The last redelineation exercise for Sarawak, which is usually done separately from the rest of Malaysia, took place in 2005, eight years ago.

Lim said it is possible that the Election Commission (EC) would to conduct its redelineation exercise simultaneously for the whole country this year, in which case DAP would push to reduce the disparity in constituency sizes.

Postal votes

In addition, he said the party would also push for postal voting for Sarawakians working in peninsula, noting that their voter turnout rate of 76 percent was well below the national average of 86.5 percent in the recent election.

"Tens of thousands of Sarawakians who are working in Peninsular Malaysia, but do not have the time nor the resources to go back home to Sarawak to vote have been effectively disenfranchised," he said.

He also urged the party to begin preparations to face the Sarawak state election, which is due in 2015.

"We have to strengthen our machinery into rural areas in a non-threatening and more persuasive manner.

"The important issues will again revolve around BN's mercenary rule where resources are reserved for the few and when will (Chief Minister) Taib Mahmud retire as promised in the 2011 state general elections.

"The new Sarawak DAP Committee will be required to submit their election plans and preparation to the Central Working Committee," he said.

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