

Minister: Chinese can be PM if they drop racist mindset

MalaysiaKini.com

June 17, 2013

By Koh Jun Lin

Newly-minted Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Shahidan Kassim advised the Chinese community to break away from what he alleged was racism inculcated by the opposition, and integrate themselves with other races.

NONE "If the Chinese are willing to step across racial boundaries, fully integrate into this multi-racial Malaysian society together with other races, and practise power sharing, I believe Malaysia would one day have a prime minister of Chinese ethnicity," he told Sin Chew Daily in an interview.

He said Chinese Malaysian have been indoctrinated with extreme racism, especially by DAP.

In contrast, he said BN is pushing for an inclusive government and leaders for all races with the promotion of the 1Malaysia concept.

Hence, he said Malaysian Chinese must change their racist mindset to become leaders for all races.

"(You) cannot lead the people if (you) believe too much in racial power. If one day the Chinese could get rid of this mindset, Malaysia could also have a Chinese as prime minister," he was quoted as saying.

He added that the Chinese would not be able to become leaders for all if they hold on tight to race-centred thinking, as they only make up 21.7 percent of the population compared to the Malays who dominate with 67 percent.

Opposition 'instigated'

The former Perlis menteri besar cited several premiers in Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia who have Chinese blood as the result of complete racial integration in those countries.

kedah black rally 220513 anwar 2In the interview, the minister in-charge of parliamentary affairs regretted that the Chinese seldom participate in activities organised by the government, but chose to be involved in the illegal street rallies held by the opposition.

He, however, believed that this was not the real intention of the Chinese but that they were instigated by the opposition.

Shahidan also agreed with the notion of 'Chinese tsunami' raised by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak as he found that up to 70 percent of those who attended the opposition's rallies were Chinese.

"How can I not have such a thinking? The social media has been spreading content which says that the Chinese should grab power.

"How can such instigation not prompt the Chinese to go onto street to fight for the rights that they think they should have?"

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