

## **Don't be anti-Malay, Rafizi tells think-tank chief**

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**By Salhan K Ahmad**

Rafizi Ramli has claimed that Centre for Policy Initiatives (CPI) director Lim Teck Ghee appears to only endorse issues that go against Umno, the Malay culture and Islamic studies.

NONEHe was responding to Lim's criticism that Rafizi's support for the teaching of Islamic and Asian civilisation (Titas) in private universities as a disappointment.

"It is not wise for Lim to (only) support issues brought by Pakatan Rakyat which are seen to be against Malay sentiment.

"When we mention NEP and go against Umno, he supports. But on matters pertaining to the Malay culture or Islamic studies, Lim (right) would object," he added.

Lim, on the other hand, had said the PKR strategy director and Pandan MP should not be seen as bowing to right-wing Malay rights groups.

Tread carefully on Titas

Meanwhile, Rafizi also cautioned Pakatan leaders to tread carefully on the Titas issue in order not to be seen as anti-Islam.

He said Pakatan should have an open stand on this matter and not speak as if portraying the interest of a particular race.

The first term lawmaker also said that students would be interested in studying the subject if it was not considered as part of their cumulative grade point average.

"We cannot reject the subject politically as it would create the perception that non-Muslims totally reject Islam," he told Malaysiakini.

In a related development, PAS information chief Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man said the subject was not new, as it was being taught in public institutions of higher learning and did not require a compulsory pass.

"There is no intention of having the subject taught to Islamise non-Muslims as what is claimed. For PAS, it is not a problem of having non-Muslims learn the subject.

"What is taught includes Asian civilisation that includes the Indians and Chinese. Knowing this would help bridge the gap between the various religions," he said.

Furthermore, Tuan Man said the government's move not to make it a compulsory pass subject showed its tolerance.

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