

Najib giving us 'national retaliation', says Guan Eng

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By Hafiz Yatim

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng has condemned Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's broken promises of "national reconciliation" following the proposed amendments to several crime-related pieces of legislation.

Lim (left), who is also Penang chief minister, said Najib promised "national reconciliation" after elections but in turn gave us "national retaliation".

"Looking at the policies directed to the community, he continues to try and divide the people.

"With the Prevention of Crime Act (PCA), it is like bringing back the Emergency Ordinance legislation all but in name all over again, which provides for detention for a long period," he said.

Najib, Lim said, is breaking all his promises of reforms.

The Penang chief minister said Najib had talked yesterday of making corruption a thing of the past but yet he does not support the declaration of the ministers' assets or open competitive tenders.

"Hence, he is not fulfilling his promises," said Lim.

Karpal: they are bulldozing it through

It is obvious, DAP chairperson Karpal Singh said, that the government is trying to bulldoze through all the amendments without consulting the opposition or the Bar.

"If not they should give due notice for people to give their inputs. The Bar Council should not be alienated and should not be treated as an NGO to give their views. They should reconcile towards the Bar Council," he said.

Karpal said some of the provisions in the PCA seemed as draconian as the Internal Security Act.

Puchong MP Gobind Singh Deo said that Pakatan Rakyat is united in opposing such amendments like preventive detention, which is like detention without trial.

“When ideas of new acts (replacing the ISA and EO) were to be introduced, the home minister had promised that the concerns of all parties would be taken into consideration. It now shows that he had not followed through with his promise.

“The Bar Council had not been given any notice of it. Neither have their views been taken into account. None from the opposition parties have been consulted. This is something which we should look out for as well (the broken promises),” he said.

Today it was reported that 11 amendments including the PCA, Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Evidence Act are among those tabled in parliament for its first reading.

Malaysian Bar president Christopher Leong said they have not seen the draft nor were consulted on the amendments.

The Advocates Association of Sarawak and the Sabah Law Association have also indicated that they were not consulted either in the amendments to the PCA, which initially covers peninsular Malaysia.

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