

Perkasa condemns MCA leader, branding him 'anti-national'

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Malay right-wing group Perkasa has taken MCA leader Ti Lian Ker to task after the latter blamed the federal constitution for accentuating the inherent racism in the country.

Branding Ti's remarks as "irresponsible" and "anti-national", Perkasa president Ibrahim Ali wondered how such a statement could be made by an "educated man" like Ti.

He wants to know what Ti had meant when the latter said that the federal constitution had accentuated racism.

Ibrahim believes that Ti had referred to Article 153 of the constitution. Article 153 grants the Yang di-Pertuan Agong responsibility for safeguarding the special position of the bumiputera.

"When he said that the (federal) constitution accentuates racism, is it because Islam is the official religion, that Bahasa Malaysia is the national language, the position of the Malay rulers, as well as the special position of the Malays?"

"(Ti's) statement is very dangerous. It is as though he has blamed putting Islam as the official religion," added Ibrahim.

The former Pasir Mas lawmaker also hit out at Ti, pointing out how the constitution was an agreement – a social contract which could not be amended by any quarters.

"Even Parliament cannot amend this social contract. We want to remind Ti: don't let the 1987 Ops Lalang incident recur.

"We have to accept the fact how Malaysia used to be the Federation of Malaya; the majority are the bumiputera which means that it is the majority that calls the shots," he said.

Ibrahim is also of the opinion that extremism arises because there are those who raise such issues.

"I think these people are the ones who give rise to racism; they are the ones whom I consider to be racist."

Asked whether Perkasa wants Ti to apologise over his remarks, Ibrahim said it was up to the MCA central committee member to do so.

"If he apologises willingly, that would be better than us demanding him to do so.

“Perkasa is condemning Ti’s statement; whether he wants to explain his remarks or otherwise, it is up to him.”

Perkasa is also undecided whether a police report will be lodged or otherwise, citing how the police already have too many things on their plate.

“If this issue prolongs, we will decide on the next course of action, including (lodging) a police report. Now, it is enough to just state our views (on the matter),” he said.

Ti yesterday also said the country’s situation was made worse by institutions and administrations that were tainted with racial and religious sentiments.

He was responding to National Civics Bureau (BTN) chief Ibrahim Saad, who told a forum on Tuesday that racism in Malaysia peaks during election season when sensitive issues are exploited.

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