

'Open tenders will benefit, not erode, Malay interests'

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Open tenders by the government for the sale of strategic land would not erode Malay interests, says Kedah Gerakan Youth.

ON the contrary, the proposed open tender for such sales would benefit Malays and other Malaysians by ensuring that only those with the capability would win the bids, said the state Gerakan's wing chief Tan Keng Liang (left).

Tan described as "unfortunate" Perkasa's lack of support for the open tender proposal by the government.

"Perkasa must understand that open tender will maximize the government's revenue for the benefit of all Malaysians. It will ensure that only those with merits, including the Malays, would win the open tender," said Tan in a statement.

Tan was responding to remarks by Perkasa chief Ibrahim Ali, who yesterday said open tenders for the sale of strategic land could erode "the little remaining assets owned the Malays and bumiputeras,"

Ibrahim Ali, who is also an independent parliamentarian for Pasir Mas, said his group would object any move to implement the proposal for open tenders.

Tan pointed out that Article 89 of the federal constitution already provides for the protection of Malay reserve lands.

"Each state in our country also has their respective law to prohibit the sale of Malay reserve lands to non-Malays.

"As such, the interest of Malays in the land of our country had always been protected by the federal constitution and could not be eroded by a mere open tender," said Tan.

Besides that, he added, an open tender process would not exclude the participation of the Malays and bumiputras.

On the contrary, such open tender process would ensure that all capable Malays would be given a chance to win the open tender process.

"The allegation of only the few privileged 'Malay' being awarded government projects would no longer arise," he added.

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