

'Pak Lah does not read my letters'
Malaysiakini.com
April 13, 2007

Letters sent to Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi are disappearing into a 'black hole' in his office, according to Parliamentary Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang today.

The veteran politician, who described this as his "worst fears confirmed", said the premier is not even given a briefing on these letters.

Lim was responding to Abdullah's statement that no formal reports had been presented to him about a Japan Times report which implicated Sarawak Chief Minister Taib Mahmud in a RM32 million timber export scandal.

However, the premier said he had asked the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) to investigate the allegation.

"This is most shocking indeed as it was exactly a week ago that I had sent him an urgent letter to draw his attention to the report asking him to personally reply in Parliament on Monday in view of the recent snowballing of serious corruption allegations against high-profile leaders in his administration," said Lim in a statement.

"If the prime minister does not read and is not bothered to get briefed about an urgent letter from the parliamentary opposition leader on serious corruption allegations against high-profile leaders in his administration appearing in the international media, gravely undermining Malaysia's image and international competitiveness, who will expect the prime minister to have time for anyone who sends him letters, petitions or appeals as their hope of a last resort for justice?" he added.

Convince the nation

Lim said in his 'urgent letter' to the prime minister dated April 6 - which was confirmed to have been received - he urged Abdullah to salvage his reform agenda and pledge.

"I even mentioned my urgent letter in Parliament on Monday during the winding-up debate by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nazri Abdul Aziz, where I also asked why the ACA had not conducted investigations into the astronomical wealth of Taib in his quarter-century as Sarawak chief minister.

"How can Abdullah say one week after my urgent letter that no formal report had been presented to him?" he asked.

Lim said Abdullah should come to Parliament next week to convince MPs and the nation that he has not abandoned his anti-corruption agenda and commitment.

According to the Japan Times report, which quoted sources, nine Japanese shipping companies which transport lumber from Sarawak had allegedly failed to report some 1.1 billion yen (RM32 million) of income during a seven-year period.

It was alleged the money constituted kickbacks to Sarawak officials via a Hong Kong agent connected to Taib and his family.

Copyright © 1999-2007 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd.
Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/65878>