

DAP's Pua clarifies views on 'NEM hypocrisy'
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PETALING JAYA - DAP MP for Petaling Jaya Utara Tony Pua said he had no intention to fan racial sentiments nor suggested that the rights of bumiputeras as defined in the Constitution be taken away.

His statement, appearing in the latest posting on his blog, was in reply to previous criticism from the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Ahmad Maslan who warned him not to "play with fire" last Sunday.

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak had also warned DAP leaders to stop putting pressure on discount for Bumiputera property purchasers as it could cause sentiments from the Malays and bumiputeras.

"I was looking at the policy strictly from the perspective of economic distributive justice."

"The current policy is skewed towards greater benefit or 'subsidy' for the wealthier community, which runs against the spirit of affirmative action policies," Pua said.

In his blog posting, he claimed that there is nothing "market-friendly" or "merit-based" in the prime minister's New Economic Model (NEM) that claimed to provide a greater support for the bumiputera based on needs, not race.

"A person who purchases a RM2 million property under the current scheme of say, 7% discount will receive a benefit of RM140,000," he said.

"However, a lower income person who purchases a property of RM100,000 will only receive a benefit of RM7,000, a fraction of the benefit enjoyed by the rich."

Pua said the government should drop the hypocrisy to implement a "New Economic Model" based on "market-friendly and merit-based affirmative action programme" if there is no intention to.

"It'll only prove to investors that the Government is "all talk, no action" and that the Barisan Nasional is completely incapable of change."

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