

PR leaders warn colleagues not to fall into 'BN trap'
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PETALING JAYA - The recent spat or should it be called the war of words between the big guns of Umno and MCA has prompted warnings from leaders of Pakatan Rakyat to colleagues not to fall into a "BN trap".

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng (left), who had experienced the fury of the obnoxious Internal Security Act in 1987, have sent out ominous warnings to party colleagues not to get caught in the crossfires.

Lim, in a press statement Wednesday, referred to the current spat between Umno and MCA over bumiputera quotas as a "chilling reprise" of the 1987 Operasi Lalang event.

He claimed BN could once again use the "sandiwara" (drama) quarrel between the two parties to exercise the Internal Security Act (ISA).

PAS vice president Mahfuz Omar reportedly also described the UMNO-MCA media debate as "sandiwara".

HarakahDaily reported him as saying the tit for tat verbal attacks between the deputy prime minister and the MCA president were reminiscent of a media war in 1987 between then UMNO Youth chief Najib Razak and MCA deputy president Lee Kim Sa.

Mahfuz warned Pakatan Rakyat leaders not to fall into BN's "cheap politics", saying the same stage show was being re-run now, only with different actors – Muhyiddin Yassin and Chua Soi Lek.

Their main contention is that there might be a plot to repeat the sweeping arrests in Operasi Lalang when 117 people were jailed under the ISA which allows indefinite detention without trial.

Guan Eng recalled he was among one of the 117 people detained while involved Umno and MCA leaders escaped. Lee Kim SaI was asked to go for a holiday in Australia.

"Amongst those detained were Karpal Singh, Lim Kit Siang and myself. PAS leaders detained were Mohd Sabu, MPs Mahfuz Omar and Khalid Samad as well as PSM Selangor ADUN Mohd Nasir," said Guan Eng.

Four media publications - Sin Chew Jit Poh, The Star, The Sunday Star and Watan had their licences revoked.

Guan Eng also claimed that BN plans to use the Umno-MCA "sandiwara" quarrel to distract the country from real problems.

He said BN is facing challenges of rule of law, corruption, power abuse and declining economy; and "playing up racial sentiments is an easy way to avoid being accountable for their failures."

On the BN refusal to support DAP's call for a Royal Commission to inquire the loss and return of RM52 billion worth of shares to the poor bumiputeras and Malays distributed under the New Economic Policy (NEP), he said this was "an immoral act designed to protect their own

cronies."

He claimed that the RM52bil worth of shares were hijacked by BN leaders.

"If the RM52bil worth of bumiputera shares still remained in bumi hands, then the 30% bumi/Malays equity target under the NEP would have long been achieved," he said.

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