

Chinese community gained from BN policies, says Chen
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PETALING JAYA – Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng (left) said Sunday, Utusan Malaysia should be ashamed for publishing provocative reports pitting non-Malays against Malays and threatening a "big war worse than May 13 racial riots" that turned out to be false.

Lim, who is also DAP secretary-general and MP for Bagan, accused the Umno-owned newspaper of publishing "false reports" and that it should withdraw its reports and apologise for cheating Malaysians.

Utusan's report of the threat of a bigger war than May 13 was in a special column by Penolong Ketua Pengarang I of Kumpulan Utusan Malaysia, Zaini Hassan, entitled "Benar 'perang besar' boleh berlaku di Malaysia".

"Utusan only referred to Perak Mufti Tan Sri Harussani Zakaria's claim that three copies of the 'new' Federal Constitution were given to him during a ceramah in Alor Setar," said Lim in a press statement Sunday.

"No proof had been offered of who was pushing for a new constitution or what were its contents."

Lim recalled that Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nazri Aziz was reported in The Star on Friday, Aug 20, as rubbishing the claims of a new Constitution to replace the present Federal Constitution.

Describing Harussani's claim as "coffee-shop talk", Nazri said it was a waste of time for the police to investigate the matter.

Harussani had claimed that the new constitution would expunge the special rights of the Malays and the position of Islam as the official religion of the country.

Lim said DAP fully supports Nazri's description of the new constitution as "coffee-shop talk".

"Since a Minister had declared that Utusan Malaysia was publishing "coffee-shop talk" that was baseless and false, Utusan should withdraw these reports and apologise for misleading and cheating the public," said Lim

In George Town, the state government, at an emergency meeting Sunday, reportedly passed a 10-point resolution over the "Doa" (prayer) issue. Lim chaired the meeting.

According to a news portal, Deputy Chief Minister Mansor Othman said the top resolution was that Penang acknowledged the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as the supreme ruler of the nation.

The Penang government also acknowledged Islam as the official religion of the state while other religions can also be practised in accordance with Article 5(1) of the state constitution.

Mansor said the resolution also urged Umno to take stern action against khatibs and imams who are proven to have used Lim's name in sermons.

The news portal reported that Mansor also maintained that Lim's name was never used to replace the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, as claimed by the state Umno and reported in party-owned newspaper Utusan Malaysia on Friday.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that Penang police have set up a special team to investigate the alleged use of the chief minister's name instead of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's in the "doa" during the Friday sermon at certain mosques in the state.

State police chief Ayub Yaakob said the police were acting on two reports, made at the Butterworth and Tasek Gelugor police stations, and hoped to complete their investigation next week.

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