

**'Zero-tolerance' should start with Utusan, says Kit Siang**  
**Malaysianmirror.com**  
**27 August 2010**

KUALA LUMPUR — DAP stalwart Lim Kit Siang has welcomed Najib Abdul Razak's pledge to adopt a "zero-tolerance" policy on racism but questioned the Prime Minister's belated declaration.

In a statement on his blog Friday, the Ipoh Timur MP said the Prime Minister should "walk the talk" and start by taking firm action against the Umno-owned daily Utusan Melayu for allegedly fanning racial and religious incitement.

Although Najib has finally "broken his silence" on racism, which he announced at the Barisan Nasional Youth Lab meeting here earlier Friday, the DAP advisor hoped that this is not an "empty declaration".

"Najib should not only declare a 'zero tolerance' policy for racism but also for all forms of religious incitement, starting with Utusan Malaysia," Lim said in his blog statement.

Lim reminded Najib that Utusan had tried to "incite racial tensions and hatred with baseless and irresponsible headlines and articles" like "Elak perang besar — Harussani enggan dedah pihak terlibat wujudkan 'perlembagaan baru'" and "Benar, 'perang besar' boleh berlaku di Malaysia".

He also said that Utusan had also stoked religious sentiments with regards to the issue of mosques in Penang replacing the name of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong with the name of Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng during Friday sermons.

Utusan had carried out articles with headlines such as "Lagi nama Guan Eng dalam khutbah" and "Pasukan khas siasat khutbah guna nama Guan Eng."

"Were these Utusan Malaysia front-page headlines [meant] to promote 1 Malaysia and foster inter-racial and inter-religious understanding, accord and harmony, or the reverse?" he asked.

"While there is controversy as to what had actually happened in the Penang mosques and suraus, what is clearly established is that there is no basis for the insinuation that Guan Eng had anything to do with the khutbahs or that he had intended any disrespect to Islam or Yang di-Pertuan Agong," he said.

Lim also mentioned the "controversy" involving DAP MP for Serdang Teo Nie Ching, with Utusan publishing a frontpage photo story of her visiting Surau Al-Huda in her Kajang constituency to give donations and speak on the invitation of the surau authorities.

"There is divided opinion in the Muslim community on the propriety of the event, but Nie Ching had acted out of fullest respect for Islam and her Muslim constituents and not to insult Islam," Lim said.

Lim also questioned why Najib had taken so long to break his silence over the case of the two principals in Johor and Kedah who were accused of uttering racist remarks to students.

Last Friday, Education Minister Muhyiddin Yassin broke his own silence on the issue and directed Education director-general Alimuddin Mohd Dom to set up a task force and probe

the incidents.

Previously, Alimuddin had claimed that the Kulai incident had been settled.

Copyright © 2009 [www.malaysiamirror.com](http://www.malaysiamirror.com)

Source :

<http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/49014-zero-tolerance-should-start-with-utusan-says-kit-siang>