

'Khairy, you're wrong. Namewee is no racist'
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KUALA LUMPUR - DAP stalwart Lim Kit Siang has asked Umno Youth Chief Khairy Jamaluddin whether he would surrender himself to the police for criminal charges based on the "racist statements" he made before demanding that Namewee be taught a lesson.

Lim posed the question in his latest blog posting in response to Khairy's statement describing controversial rapper Wee Meng Chee (or Namewee) as a racist.

"Namewee exposes himself as the racist when he says 'You tak baca? Siapa buat Malaysia kaya?' and 'Namewee's insinuation that the Chinese are solely responsible for this country's growth is just as blatantly offensive,'" Khairy was quoted as saying in a media report.

The DAP veteran also mentioned some previous statements made by Khairy which were deemed to be racist in nature.

They included the "uncalled-for-attack on the Indian community" at the Umno general assembly in 2007 and "so-called marginalisation of the Malays in Penang" under Dr Koh Tsu Koon as Penang chief minister.

Khairy was wrong

Lim claimed that the Umno Youth chief was wrong to say that Namewee was racist based on his personal interpretation of the line "You take baca? Siapa buat Malaysia kaya?"

According to the DAP leader, "it is open to various interpretations and not just Khairy's conclusion that it is an overt insinuation that Malays played a minor role in Malaysia's economic growth and was therefore racist in nature."

Instead, the quoted line could be interpreted as Malaysians have all contributed to the country's prosperity and therefore, it is unacceptable to tell Malaysian Chinese to "balik Tongsan."

Lim explained: Firstly, because all Malaysians contributed to the economic development of the country. Secondly, after 53 years of Merdeka, the Malaysian Chinese are 100% Malaysians who have no "Tongsan" to go back to!"

Double standard

The Chinese rapper first got into trouble with the authorities in 2007 for his "Negaraku" video clip. He is now under investigation for allegedly producing another seditious video.

Lim said the police should explain why Namewee has been investigated when there was nothing seditious in his rap video against the school principals for making racist slurs against students.

"This is especially so when the school principals concerned are still scot-free after making seditious statements."

The DAP supremo said his own arrest for sedition, as well as that of DAP chairman Karpal Singh's, are examples of power abuse and double-standards in the country.

'Zero-tolerance' policy

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin has stressed on the government's "zero-tolerance" policy towards racism at a press conference in Perdana Putra Thursday.

He said that the case of Namewee has been studied and noted that avoiding racial tension in the country is of paramount importance.

"That is why if there is someone who wants to voice their opinion in a democratic country, they are bound by laws especially the Sedition Act," Muhyiddin said.

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