

**Kit Siang says ETP based on 'unrealistic targets' [http://www.google.com/buzz/post  
Malaysianmirror.com](http://www.google.com/buzz/post/Malaysianmirror.com)  
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KUALA LUMPUR - DAP stalwart Lim Kit Siang claimed that the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) announced on Tuesday was merely a colourful presentation filled with unrealistic assumptions about the country's economic growth prospects enriched with corporate rhetoric.

The DAP Parliamentary leader claimed in his blog posting Wednesday that the investment plan unveiled under the ETP was based on "unrealistic targets" and filled with mere assumptions rather than actual forecasts.

He compared the ETP to the collapse of the Soviet economy in the late 1980s and described the government's ambitious plan as another version of China Mao Zedong's "Great Leap Forward" fiasco.

The government's ambitious plan was to boost the country's economy whereby the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu) had identified RM1.38 trillion worth of investment to push Malaysia to be a developed nation within ten years.

However, Lim said that the pronouncement has showed the government's inability to deal with the fundamental policy flaws which are responsible for the "middle-income trap" currently faced by the country.

"A grave omission in the ETP is the singular lack of an articulation of changes in the policy regime to arrest corruption, increase competitiveness and transparency in procurements, introduce meaningful safety net programs, rationalize labor market policies including the adoption of a minimum wage policy and the abolition of anti-competitive measures," he said.

Lim further added that, "the failure to deal with the issue of tax reform within the context of the ETP is yet another indication of the lack of an integrated and well-designed programme of reforms that are imperative if the private sector is to be permitted to function effectively."

The Ipoh Timur MP said the concepts embodied in the ETP were beyond the comprehension of the public, who were only subjected to "lofty speeches" and "confuse rather enlighten" by the PowerPoint slides.

Lim said previous hopes on Najib's New Economic Model (NEM) to carry out reforms had been undermined by Perkasa who attacked any attempts to reform the New Economic Policy (NEP).

He noted that the ETP has acknowledged that the private sector will need to make a total investment of US\$444bil in order to achieve a doubling of per capital incomes by 2020.

Hence, the underlying assumption of the ETP appeared to be that the private sector will make a remarkable shift without the government doing its part, Lim said.

However, Lim said that the "assumption lacks all credibility as such a turnaround cannot be anticipated so long as the government remains entrapped by the policy framework

espoused by Perkasa and others of its ilk."

"To resort to what is obviously a system of central planning — with unrealistic targets, dubious statistics to show "performance", picking "winners", maintaining constraints to growth via quotas and a system of approvals together with subsidies to corporate entities (both GLCs and selected private corporate tycoons) — is totally in contradiction to the announced intent to let the private sector act freely," the DAP veteran lamented.

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