

Kit Siang dares Muhyiddin to return his 'forbidden' money
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PETALING JAYA - DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang has challenged Deputy Premier Muhyiddin Yassin to set an example by returning all his salaries and allowances as a federal minister in the past 15 years when he declared that Muslims did not want to be associated with money from "forbidden sources."

"As Muhyiddin said that Muslims do not want to be associated with money from "a forbidden source", and part of the expenditure for national management and development including paying the salaries and allowances of Cabinet ministers is sourced from gambling revenue, the DPM must be consistent and return all his salaries and allowances as Cabinet minister going back to 15 years to the Treasury," Lim said in his blog posting Tuesday.

Lim was referring to the statement made by the DPM and reported in a Bernama article dated Sept 25 saying: "We want an answer from Lim (Guan Eng). If the money is from a forbidden source, Muslims will have no part in it."

The funds channelled to finance poverty eradication programmes in Penang by the Penang Chief Minister was alleged to be funds from gambling activities.

Some senior citizens from Bayan Baru had returned the RM100 payment due to concerns that the funds for the Penang's Senior Citizen Appreciation Programme came from gambling sources, an online news portal reported last Saturday.

Lim who highlighted Muhyiddin's portfolio serving as a federal minister since 1995 said: "Can Muhyiddin compute and declare how much salaries and allowances he would have to return to the Treasury as federal minister in the past 15 years because they come from the Federal Government Consolidated Fund which includes gambling tax?"

The Ipoh Timur MP pointed out that DAP MP for Rasah Anthony Loke who earlier in June had asked Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, who is also the Finance Minister, whether revenue from gambling was separated from the Consolidated Fund.

Loke had also asked in the Parliament meeting what was the mechanism to manage the gambling revenue; its uses and what percentage was channelled to deal with social woes resulting from gambling activities.

Najib replied that revenue from gambling activities were at that time categorized as government revenue, and all taxation and revenue received by the federal government will be credited into the Consolidated Fund based on Article 97 of the Constitution and Financial Procedure Act 1957 (revised in 1972).

"All revenue from payment of taxes are put into the Consolidated Account like all other government revenue and is used for purposes of management spending and national development," Najib added.

The DAP veteran cited that Deputy Finance Minister Senator Awang Adek in the same Parliament meeting had disclosed that the gambling tax collected by the Barisan Nasional federal government last year amounted to RM2.3 billion.

Lim lamented that Muhyiddin had acted in a "most irresponsible manner in aiding and abetting Penang Umno's "political desperado tactics" instead of offering advice to Penang Umno not to resort to irresponsible politicking.

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