

Baru Bian disappointed on Wee's response over native children's status
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KUCHING - PKR State Chief Baru Bian was disappointed that the Deputy Minister of Education Wee Ka Siong has pushed the blame to the National Registration Department (NRD) on the issue of native children's race being changed to Malay.

It was reported on Tuesday that some six native students' of Lun Bawang, Kelabit, Iban status have been classified as 'Keturunan Melayu' instead of the usual lain-lain, in their school report cards.

"I am disappointed with the Deputy Minister of Education, Wee Ka Siong, for saying that his ministry is not responsible for this. He should at least investigate first. Did he investigate? It could be Little Napoleons within his ministry that are doing this," Baru Bian said.

He urged for a clarification from NRD immediately as the parents of the affected students were worried that their children status would be changed without their approval.

Free Malaysia Today reported on Wednesday that Wee was unaware about the matter and said the fault did not rest with his ministry.

"Any correction to this (a child's racial origin) must be done with the NRD, not us. This has nothing to do with the ministry. We have no right to say if you're Malay or Chinese. We've no right," FMT quoted him as saying.

Wee also said it was possible that the information in the report cards was not official and could have been amended.

"If the Minister says it is the work of the National Registration Department (JPN), then I want to hear a response from the NRD now. This issue must not be taken lightly and swept under the carpet!" Baru Bian said.

Baru Bian had on Tuesday demanded the Education Ministry to investigate the matter immediately and revert back the original status of the students.

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