

The question of race or religion
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The practice of associating certain positions or posts with certain backgrounds is no more relevant in this modern era of globalization.

Kelantan Menteri Besar and PAS mursyidul am (spiritual adviser) Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat has said that if Lim Kit Siang wanted to serve as a deputy prime minister, then he should first change his religion and become a Muslim. There is no such a provision in the Federal Constitution. It is not unconstitutional for a non-Muslim or non-Malay to serve as a deputy prime minister. Although Aziz is not a racist, the fact that he should raise such a condition shows that he holds his religious ideology above national interest.

While he wants to ensure that PAS does not walk the ethnic lines, there exists exclusivity in both racism and religious discrimination. Why should one stress skin colour, religion, gender and social background even today?

For the country to progress and for economic advancement, it must pursue the real performance system. It should use those who are really good and capable, and not allow them to occupy high positions just because of their skin colours or religious beliefs. Such a practice is really detrimental to the national interest and many resources are wasted because of such policies and practices.

If Lim Kit Siang has the leadership and ability to govern and manage the country, why can't he be the deputy prime minister? The Pakatan Rakyat wants to be seen as different from the Barisan Nasional (BN). Then in addition to abandoning the concept of race, it should also dare to break free from the confines of religious beliefs. A person from any religious background, even a professed atheist, should be entrusted with responsibilities and the opportunity to perform, as long as he is qualified and capable..

If the Pakatan Rakyat wants to take over the federal government, then it must instill confidence in the people. But its three coalition partners still need to discuss and adjust their ideas, so that conflicts on important issues will be not develop.

The same applies to the BN. The government has set up Talent Corporation Malaysia to lure talents back to the country. The pre-condition is that the rigid racial policies must be abolished. These policies have caused the country to fall into the rut and difficulty of being a middle-income country, for which brain drain is only one of the problems.

Unfortunately, the finalised New Economic Model does not modify the New Economic Policy, and use a performance system. The National Economic Advisory Council has put forward many constructive proposals, but none of them is open enough, and hence, flawed.

Plans to entice talent back in the past have all failed because of the lack of correct policies. As the saying goes, the thunder is loud, but the rain is little. The slogan can be created to attract talents, but the most important are the policies.

Even though some professionals return due to various incentives and concessions, because of racial policies, they did not have the space to perform. How can they then utilize their strengths? This type of programme cannot make the talent remain long in the country.

It is a good thing that graduates of the Chinese independent high schools could now be enrolled in the teachers training colleges, the lack of a complete openness of the policy is a big setback. Why not accept and recognize the Unified Education Certificate (UEC) from the Chinese independent high schools, the UEC Bahasa Malaysia paper, and even degrees from China and Taiwan?

If the government gave direct recognition to the UEC and degrees from China and Taiwan, it would surely retain more talents. There may be officials who still maintain that we cannot have two educational systems. But for the sake of our national interest, we should abandon this kind of psychological burden and racial thinking. As the saying goes, because the sea does not select the small streams flowing to it, it becomes deep.

To transform the economy, there should be real changes with the state. We do not want inconsequential changes made for the general election or for the votes. If we do that, we would eventually end up running in the same place. - mysinchew.com

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