

Kit Siang Puts Najib's Political Transformation Programme to The Test
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Kuala Lumpur – Opposition leader and DAP stalwart Lim Kit Siang responded to Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman's Political Transformation Programme by putting the 1Malaysia concept on a collision course with Utusan Malaysia.

This may be interpreted as a sign that Kit Siang and opposition are feeling the heat of Najib's reforms, which can be seen to rake back some support from the people. Kit Siang's statement came in the wake of Najib's meeting with BN members of Parliament on Saturday.

He took a dig at the various transformation programmes, as well as the "People First, Performance Now" slogan which is synonymous with 1Malaysia saying that despite the initiatives launched.

He said, "the country had never been more divided in the nation's 53-year history than in the 18 months of Najib's premiership, highlighting the hollowness and hypocrisy of his 1Malaysia concept, precisely because the loudest voice against Najib's all-inclusive 1Malaysia concept had come from none other than UMNO's official organ, Utusan Malaysia, which had been churning out a daily staple of lies and falsehoods to stoke communal hatred and national division."

"It is most shocking and outrageous that in the past 18 months, there had been no serious effort to ensure that Utusan Malaysia, as the Umno's official organ, should spearhead the 1Malaysia concept instead of being its biggest enemy and detractor with the daily diet of lies and falsehoods poisoning inter-racial and inter-religious relations and fanning national divisions in the country," Kit Siang's statement added.

Cabinet members from the Najib administration, Deputy PM Muhyiddin in particular, were also not spared when Kit Siang asked, rightly or otherwise, that "apart from the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz, is there not a second Cabinet Minister who dare to publicly declare his or her full commitment to the 1Malaysia objective and being a Malaysian first and race, religion, geography and socio-economic grouping second?"

Najib has been seen to be grappling with appeasing the non-bumiputeras with his 1Malaysia concept, but is finding it hard to square that with the hardline views from Utusan Malaysia favouring race-defined protectionists policies.

The secular DAP has come under fire from Utusan Malaysia over the appointment of Selangor state secretary fiasco, with a popular columnist accusing the predominantly Chinese party of trying to abolish the Malay sultanate system.

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