

Tax Break Should Also Be Accorded To Professionals In Malaysia
Malaysianmirror.com
April 13, 2011

KUALA LUMPUR - Lim Guan Eng today said that Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak should also extend the flat-tax incentive of 15% for five years under the Returning Experts Programme (REP) to professionals working locally in Malaysia.

He said that by only limiting this 15% flat income tax to professionals returning from overseas is highly discriminatory to Malaysians working here.

"Whilst tax is an important factor, a lower tax rate alone is not a sufficient inducement when there are other important considerations such as pay, quality of life, promotion prospects, racial quotas and discrimination. Since Merdeka, an estimated 2 million Malaysians, mostly highly skilled talents, have migrated and left Malaysia." Lim said in his statement.

He said that amongst the many reasons given for many experts and professionals to leave is the lack of career advancement and the unhealthy climate of racial discrimination and quotas.

"No professional would want to bring up his children in this type of environment which does not offer them equal opportunities and reward performance." he added.

The Bagan MP said that by giving only those Malaysian professionals working overseas the 15% flat tax income tax benefit may actually encourage many professionals working in Malaysia to leave.

"Isn't it better to work overseas since the Malaysian government would treat you better than when you are working in Malaysia. One can then return back to enjoy the 15% income tax benefit." he said.

Najib announced the tax break yesterday in the hope of wooing more Malaysian talents working abroad to return and contribute to the country.