

Stop Looking Down On Indian Community
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by Dr Mah Hang Soon

It is bad enough that DAP Perak makes up excuses that his “words were taken out of context” in his insincere apology, there seems to end to DAP Perak’s denigration against to the Indian community and people whose complexion is dark.

Online news report referring to DAP Perak chairman Ngeh Koo Ham twitter message dated 29 November 2011 where he further supported his cousin’s Nge Kor Ming’s racist labeling by describing “Indians nt as stupid as they think” do not come as a shock. Clearly, Ngeh looks down on Indians as “stupid.”

Ngeh’s subsequent twitter messages just affirm further excuses for himself and his cousin rather than acknowledge the offensive slurs. All these indicate shirking responsibility for his insult and covering up for Nga’s so-called apology which was never sincere.

Instead of advising his cousin to be genuine or rebuking him for practising parochial racist identification, Ngeh adds insult to injury by looking down on Indians as “stupid.” What sort of uninvestigated methodology or scientific experiment did Ngeh deploy that he can summarily categorise Indians as “stupid” ?

No sound from other DAP leaders

Apart from Tunku Abdul Aziz and Karpal Singh’s softened reprimand, all Pakatan Rakyat elected representatives, especially those from the Indian ethnicity like Charles Santiago, Manikavasagam, M. Manoharan, Sivarasa have failed their electorate by not condemning such derogatory stereotypes by the Ngeh-Nga cousins.

Education opportunities drop under Pakatan rule

In Perak, under BN’s Dermasiswa programme, Indian recipients soared to 1,174 in 2009 compared to the mere 186 under Pakatan rule in 2008. Up till 18 May 2011, 151 students have benefitted from the said BN programme.

It is bad enough that in Selangor, Pakatan wakil rakyat not only failed to expand the number of education loan offers for Indian students, they even allowed the number of education loan Indian recipients to drop gradually for three consecutive years since 2009 (from 58/845) to 28/345 in 2010 and 11/227 in 2011, thereby flopping to safeguard education opportunities for the people who held hopes on them.

Adopt colour-blind approach

Considering that DAP on the whole be they in Perak or Selangor indulge in race polarization, I strongly urge DAP leaders to practise a colour-blind approach in serving their constituencies and

the rakyat, and mutual respect for their comrades within their own party.

DAP leaders must learn from the history of colonialism that any form of racist compartmentalisation does not help to inculcate mutual acceptance. On the contrary, it only serves to nurture an “us-vs-them” mentality leading to xenophobia which is unhealthy.

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