

Perceptions vary over same issue, says Keng Yaik

KUALA LUMPUR: The recent controversy regarding the bumiputra stake in the economy is an example of a Chinese proverb of an issue being seen from different perspectives, said Gerakan president Datuk Seri Lim Keng Yaik.

He said the proverb is: Same bed, different dreams.

"It's like two people sleeping in the same bed but having different dreams. Some are actual dreams and some are nightmares."

He was speaking to reporters after chairing a three-hour discussion here yesterday over the findings of the Centre for Public Policy Studies of the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli).

The study estimated that bumiputra equity ownership in public-listed companies could be as high as 45%.

On Tuesday, Asli president Mirzan Mahathir said the study was based on faulty assumptions. The centre's director Dr Lim Teck Ghee, stood by the findings and resigned in protest.

Keng Yaik said the issue had affected people's perception of

the Government's integrity.

He called on the Government, through the Economic Planning Unit, to make known its own findings on the issue so as to uphold the Government's integrity.

"Whether it's 18.9% or 45%, it doesn't matter. We want the true picture out in the open.

"Let's not hide behind official statistics. These statistics should be made known to the people," added Keng Yaik, who is also Water, Energy and Communications Minister.

Keng Yaik said the controversy had sparked off debates, with the different communities having their own perceptions of the issue.

"The Malays will feel they are not getting enough; the Chinese will feel they are sacrificing too much and have been kept away from economic activities; and the Indians will feel they all have nothing.

"The kind of feelings and perceptions are not good for the country," he said.



**Avoid gag orders,
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