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Let the public judge him

IT is very interesting to see how a prominent blogger has questioned the lack of intellect and logic of an academician in what he recently wrote in his column for a leading English publication.

Syed Akbar Ali, writer, columnist, economists and blogger of the syedsoutsidethebox.blogspot.com fame, was obviously echoing the thoughts of many others who had been irritated by the populist "liberal Malay" columnist and had decided to take him on.

Not mincing his words, Syed Akbar particularly took offence at the academician's contentions that "it's none of my business what consenting adults do to one another".

Readers can find out the rest of Syed Akbar's thoughts on the academician, who was writing on the current sex recordings purportedly of opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, in the link provided above.

But for this column, of interest is the academician's pronouncement that it was none of his business what consenting adults do to one another.

He then pointed out: "the reason these things float around because they are supposed to make some sort of statement about our leaders and potential leaders and frankly, I don't care about this kind of moralistic



thinking".

The academician went on to declare, among other things, that the kind of video he would love to see would be the one that exposed the obscene wealth of the leaders and their families.

To him these were more pertinent. While on one part it is comical to see his logic and his inability to grasp the issue at hand, the academician, in dismissing the significance of the sex recordings, had actually, obviously unwittingly, emphasised their significance.

First is his contention that it was none of his business what consenting adults do to one another. Consenting adults?

There are accusations that the girl was a China doll, generally a term used to describe a female prostitute from China.

... SUNDAY NOTES

The issue of the moral deficiency of the opposition leader had gone on for far too long. It must be brought to a close.

BY SHAMSUL AKMAR

Wouldn't that negate consenting adults and that patronising a prostitute is an offence in Malaysia?

Doesn't it also lead to the issue of the girl being a victim of human trafficking and the flesh trade?

It is actually quite a wonder that none of the bleeding-heart liberals had come up in arms demanding that the girl be "saved" and assisted to reunite with her loved ones.

Indeed the academician can turn around and point out the failings of the country's authorities.

But that does not take away the fact, if the person in the video is a leader of the opposition, surely he should explain himself even if he refuses to disqualify himself from offering to be the leader of this country.

And even if the likes of the academician don't care for such "moral-

istic thinking" surely the rest of the country who may care should be given the opportunity to know whom they are going to vote for.

In the end, even if the leader is proven to suffer from the moral flaws, the rest of the nation may not care and still support or vote for him as party members of another political party had done so.

The issue of the moral deficiency of the opposition leader had gone on for far too long. It must be brought to a close.

The issue is whether he has committed the alleged sexual transgressions or not. While there are many who are convinced he had, many, too, are not.

Much as the latest video recordings, if he is the man in it, do not prove his guilt in other allegations against him, it should be enough to allow the public to judge him.

Even if it is proven to be him, surely those who share the academician's views of not being bound by "such moralistic thinking" will still support and vote for him.

If it is not he, then he only stands to gain, as he would be able to continue with his renditions of being a victim of political conspiracies and gutter politics.

Lest the academician forgets, each and every one is judged by a different

yardstick and, of course, a person offering to lead a nation is judged from the highest level of the yardstick.

Similarly, if an academician did not write the said column, and it is written, let's say by a journalist, it would have been forgiven as coming from an incompetent hack.

But such writing, coming from an academician, tends to be placed under stricter scrutiny.

More pathetic is the self-righteousness that came along with the writing — he did not care for such moralistic thinking and what was done between "consenting adults" because more pertinent is the obscene wealth of the leaders and families.

In other words, is the academician saying that those who were of such moralistic thinking and do care about what was done by "consenting adults" did not care about the obscene wealth?

He may not mean it that way but in the eagerness to put him above the rest of the common and moralistic thinking masses, keen on finding out the truth behind the sex tapes, he has given the impression that they don't.

Then again, probably, what he wrote should be taken as a superficial piece written in between lectures for the deprived public.