

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	29 DECEMBER 2016

DAP's Liew defends Dr M over BR1M comments

The Star - 29/12/2016

PETALING JAYA: DAP MP Liew Chin Tong has come to the defence of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who criticised Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M) aid as a "bribe".

Liew claimed that the introduction of BR1M contributed to voter support for Umno in the 2013 general election but was increasingly becoming a policy of "diminishing returns" for the party.

"Umno ministers and big shots seemed to think that Tun Dr Mahathir is making a grave mistake in his comment on BR1M.

"Their reasoning is probably that BR1M recipients would be grateful to the Barisan Nasional government and therefore be upset if Dr Mahathir criticised it," he said.

On Sunday, it was reported that Dr Mahathir, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) chairman, described BR1M as a form of bribery and as such, illegal.

His comment drew criticism from various ministers such as Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak and Second Finance Minister Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani.

PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail also disagreed with Dr Mahathir's comment.

She explained that BR1M's target group deserved to receive monetary aid from the Government.

However, Liew claimed it was not doing much to help households due to the impact of the Goods and Services Tax and inflation.