

Guan Eng: True Islam preaches love and friendship
The Malaysian Insider
August 29, 2011
By Clara Chooi

GEORGE TOWN, Aug 29 — In a continuing bid to shake off his anti-Malay tag, Lim Guan Eng moved today to praise Islam, reminding Hari Raya celebrants that “true Islam” preaches friendship and love without suspicion.

The Penang Chief Minister, who has often been the target of anti-Malay and anti-Islam accusations, pledged that all Pakatan Rakyat-led (PR) governments would never be anti-Chinese, anti-Malay or anti-Indian but “anti-corruption”.

“Although there are a few persons who choose to narrow the teachings of Islam by slandering others, being seditious or playing with racism, the state government is confident that true Islam encourages us to be friends and love one another without suspicion.

“Only by adhering to and practicing the teachings of the religion which urges love, unity and mutual understanding, we can break the wall that separates us simply because of our different races, religions and way of life,” he said.

Lim (picture) talked up his administration’s policies, reiterating that the open tender system used for the procurement of contracts has allowed all worthy contractors to compete on a level playing field.

He denied accusations that Malay contractors had been shut out from the system, pointing out that 100 per cent of Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) contracts in the state worth RM35.6 million were given to worthy Malay contractors.

“And 99.5 per cent of Public Works Department (PWD) contracts worth RM124.2 million were given to Malay contractors.

“It is very clear that it is not that Malay contractors could not compete in the system, only useless crony contractors,” he said.

Lim pledged that the Penang government would continue to fulfil its promises by governing with principles of “efficiency, accountability and transparency” or “CAT”, adding that this has already received praise in the Auditor-General’s Report, The Economist and from Transparency International.

“My wish is to never again see mothers cry because their children are starving, fathers no longer complain that they cannot provide for their families, children are no longer frustrated because they do not have books, clothes or toys and the elderly, single mothers and disabled no longer mourn because they are marginalised by those they place their hopes in,” he said.

He said the state’s various social responsibility programmes seek to achieve these goals, adding that the state would continue to perform its best to help the needy.

The Malaysian Insider
Copyright © 2011 The Malaysian Insider
Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/guan-eng-true-islam-preaches-love-and-friendship/>