

**Fairer policies will lead to high-income status, says Guan Eng**  
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**By Yow Hong Chieh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 23 — Malaysia must pursue clean, fair economic policies to ensure it can attract sufficient talent to transform the country into a high-income nation, Lim Guan Eng said today.

The DAP secretary-general stressed that the country must do away with the present corrupt and opaque policies that only benefit a few select "cronies" at the expense of most Malaysians, a practice which has retarded Malaysia's progress.

"What better time than the Year of the Water Dragon to initiate such changes so that the coming general elections marks the new beginning that would be enjoyed by all Malaysians rich and poor by 2020?" the Penang chief minister said in his Chinese New Year address here.

Malaysia's failure to compete was compounded by massive talent flight, Lim also said, noting that some two million Malaysians have left the country since independence in 1957.

However, he said no one would blame Malaysians for venturing to greener pastures as present Barisan Nasional (BN) policies were more concerned with divisive politics and hate rather than results-oriented performance.

Lim cited the recent government decision to reduce benefits for temporary Chinese primary school teachers without consultation as an example, a move he described as "unfair, harsh and humiliating".

"How much will it cost the federal government to continue maintaining existing benefits or even increasing them to temporary teachers? I doubt that such costs will exceed the RM250 million National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) scandal, where money meant for rearing cows is used instead to purchase luxury condos," he remarked.

Lim added that the exodus of Malaysia's best and brightest would continue if BN continues to blame minorities like the Chinese for Putrajaya's failed policies and keeps using the Chinese threat to frighten Malays.

He pointed out that the Chinese could not be a threat to Malays as critical economic sectors like banking, insurance, ports, highway tolls and infrastructure, transport, automotives, power, sugar, rice, flour, plantations and oil and gas were dominated by the latter community.

"We must grow up believing in our abilities, trusting each other and have faith that Malays and non-Malays can be world champions. Malays and non-Malay kids must grow up respecting each other as Malaysians and hating only corruption," Lim added.

"Enough is enough! Let us implement policies that will stop corruption, wipe out poverty, attract back Malaysian talents so that Malaysia can be a high-income nation enjoyed by

everyone regardless of race, religion or gender."

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