

**Don't politicise education, MCA man tells Guan Eng**  
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**By DERRICK VINESH**

BUTTERWORTH: DAP should stop politicising education with its alleged threat to withhold funds to Chinese schools that subscribed to two Malay newspapers *Utusan Malaysia* and *Berita Harian*, said Penang MCA secretary Lau Chiek Tuan.

He said the alleged threat by Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, who is also DAP secretary-general, went against the spirit of racial unity.

"By making such a threat, especially when it involves education, it shows that DAP is willing to politicise anything for its own benefits," he said in a statement here yesterday.

Lau was commenting on a recent report in a Chinese daily which quoted Lim as allegedly making the threat during his speech when handing out funds to 84 Chinese schools on April 7.

Lau said that although Lim later clarified that the statement was made in jest, it was still inappropriate.

"Schools commonly subscribe to newspapers in order to improve their students' vocabulary in a language. By stopping Chinese schools from subscribing to these papers, the students may end up without a strong foothold in the national language," he said, adding that this might alienate them from other communities.

Lau claimed that it was also an open secret that Lim bore a grudge against *Utusan Malaysia* for not reporting favourably on his party and the state government.

It was widely known, he added, that Lim had attempted to sideline the Malay daily by barring it from covering the state assembly sittings.

"This threat could be Lim's desperate attempt to instil his own version of justice by blacklisting the newspaper among Penangites," he said, adding that in future, Lim should be more mature and think of the consequences of his actions and words.

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