

Najib's apology 'useless' without political will to act, says Pua
The Malaysian Insider
March 5 , 2012
By Yow Hong Chieh

KUALA LUMPUR, March 5 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak's apology for Barisan Nasional's (BN) mistakes before 2008 is "useless" as the prime minister has not moved to correct any of these missteps, Tony Pua said today.

The DAP publicity chief said that despite being in power for three years, Najib has failed to check the "rampant corruption, cronyism and abuse of power" as well as reverse the divide-and-rule policies that turned voters off BN in Election 2008.

He pointed out that Malaysia's rank in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) has fallen to 60th spot from 56th during Najib's tenure and that Putrajaya still lacked political will to tackle alleged grand corruption, such as in the RM250 million National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp).

Najib has also perpetuated cronyism by awarding large projects and concessions without open and competitive tenders to "well-known associates of BN", including tycoon Tan Sri Syed Mokhtar Al-Bukhary, Pua (picture) noted.

Inter-faith and inter-religious conditions have also worsened under Najib, with the government banning the use of the term "Allah" by Christians while supporting Malay rights group Perkasa in its alleged attempts to fan racial sentiment, he said.

"All Umno leaders, including the prime minister, have missed the point that the apology is completely useless and lacks any semblance of credibility if it is not matched with deeds," the Petaling Jaya Utara MP said in a statement.

"In fact, it is rather late for Najib to be apologising for 'past mistakes' prior to 2008 when he should be apologising for not being able to correct these mistakes despite having been the prime minister for the past three years."

Najib, who is BN chairman, apologised on Saturday for the 13-member coalition's past mistakes that cost it its customary two-thirds majority in Parliament and four states in 2008.

The apology appeared to be recognition of the groundswell against the ruling coalition ahead of a general election that must be held by April next year.

"I believe that we should not be arrogant. In a parliamentary democracy, we have to subject ourselves to the power of the people. We must have made mistakes for the people to have rejected us.

"We apologise for our past mistakes. The victors apologise, as do the losers," he said at a meet-the-people session at the Kuala Ketil public field in Baling, according to a Bernama Online report.

But Pua said today that Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Umno information chief Datuk Ahmad Maslan's decision to make light of Najib's apology the very next day destroyed any goodwill that may have arisen from it.

Muhyiddin had said there was no need to dwell on previous mistakes as "that is in the past" while Ahmad urged voters to give the ruling coalition with a mandate to rule now that Najib has promised to right BN's wrongs.

"Umno's most unapologetic 'apology' just before the upcoming elections will hence not change how the rakyat perceives BN, especially since the BN leaders are not even willing to recognise the faults in the system..."

"This demonstrates that BN remains as arrogant and as dismissive of Malaysian criticisms as ever and any chance of change will not happen if BN were to remain in power," Pua said.

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright © 2012 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/najibs-apology-useless-without-political-will-to-act-says-pua/>