

Guan Eng: Wanita Umno also met Singapore MPs
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By Shannon Teoh

KUALA LUMPUR, April 9 — Lim Guan Eng today accused Umno's Utusan Malaysia of hypocrisy for failing to highlight that Wanita Umno also met female MPs from Singapore's ruling People's Action Party (PAP) during their visit to Penang on Friday.

The Penang chief minister denied yesterday that the DAP has direct political ties with the PAP after the Malay daily said the state government's meeting with the Singapore MPs was to further the agenda of denying Malays their special rights.

The DAP secretary-general told a press conference in Penang today that Wanita Umno had also met the MPs the same day and asked if "there was also a grand conspiracy" between the women from the two ruling parties.

"I understand that the same day they met Wanita Umno. If meeting me is a grand conspiracy, then meeting Wanita Umno is also wrong," Lim (picture) said, adding that the Johor and federal governments regularly met their Singapore counterparts.

Lim had said yesterday the meeting with the 14 PAP female MPs including senior Cabinet minister Grace Fu was to build "government-to-government" ties and not to foster a political relationship.

The Bagan MP pointed out that as chief minister, he often receives courtesy calls from lawmakers across the world, including MPs from New Zealand, Indonesia, Australia, Germany and other nations.

He told Utusan Malaysia to look at the delegations that its owners in Umno had received, pointing out that Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin had once established a direct formal relationship with the Communist Youth League of China.

"Is that our approach to broadening international understanding? This is just raising fears to cater to sentiments that bring about division, hatred and even violence.

"Malaysia wants engagement and understanding with everyone, not to shout conspiracy and close up. That is immoral, unethical and unMalaysian," Lim said today.

Awang Selamat, the pseudonym used by Utusan Malaysia editors, said in his editorial yesterday that Lim met 30 MPs from the PAP, allegedly to strengthen the DAP's ties with the ruling Singapore party.

The newspaper reminded readers that the DAP and the PAP had "historical ties" which began when Singapore was still a part of Malaysia over 40 years ago.

"DAP was formed to replace PAP which was under Lee Kuan Yew at the time, when Singapore left Malaysia in 1965.

"This is one of the reasons PAP wanted to control the country's politics and go against Malay rights... the Malaysian Malaysia concept which was Kuan Yew's idea was kept alive by DAP," claimed Awang Selamat.

Awang Selamat stressed that DAP-PAP ties were at their most "strategic" stage today, saying that proof of this was Lim's "frequent" visits to Singapore.

"If this true, Awang is puzzled, what is the agenda.... what else is this for (except) to take care of PAP's feelings, if we know the game they are playing."

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