

Paul Low blasted as BN 'apologist' over media remarks as anti-graft minister
Malaysian Insider
May 18, 2013

KUALA LUMPUR, May 18 — Datuk Paul Low came under the DAP's hammer today for what the opposition branded as his first "failure" in the transparency test over remarks in several media interviews on the heels of his appointment to the Cabinet.

The new minister was accused by opposition MP Tony Pua of being an "apologist" for rationalising the challenges he will face in cutting down corruption and power abuse in the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) administration.

"Datuk Paul Low must realise that he is being appointed as a full minister, and not some paid consultant to the government," the DAP publicity chief said, in a hard-hitting statement.

"If he as a minister have [sic] no powers or is not willing to put his foot down to fight corruption and abuse of power, then who will?" Pua asked.

Until recently head of graft watchdog Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), Low told The Malaysian Insider that his new job was only to make proposals on changes to government systems, procedures and processes to reduce opportunities for corruption, as well as to strengthen integrity and good governance practices.

Low also said he was hoping to rely on the prime minister's stature to enable him to fight corruption, admitting that he has no enforcement powers.

He has also told the Singapore Straits Times "I am changing a culture and that cannot be done overnight."

"What Malaysians want to see is for our new transparency minister to show his teeth and tell the prime minister in no uncertain terms that the government cannot have a chief minister so tainted by corruption and countless abuse of power," Pua said, referring to the country's longest-serving state chief minister, Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud of Sarawak.

The chief minister of 32-years has been repeatedly linked to corruption allegations of selling out vast swathes of land and denuding virgin rainforests in Borneo Malaysia for self-enrichment.

Despite an incriminating video expose by a British environmental group earlier this year that was also broadcast on satellite television network, Abdul Taib belligerently said he would refuse to co-operate with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to investigate his finances.

Pua, the re-elected Petaling Jaya Utara lawmaker, voiced disappointment in Low, the new minister in the Prime Minister's Department charged with heading a public complaints bureau on a range of grouses, besides corruption.

He said Low, who had been seen as a "bright spark" in Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's Cabinet, was quickly turning into a "bag carrier and make-up artist" to cover up the ruling coalition's flaws.

“What hurts the most is for the president of Transparency International to openly defend the refusal by the BN ministers to disclose their personal wealth using the same tired and unacceptable excuses sung by these same ministers to date,” Pua said.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/paul-low-blasted-as-bn-apologist-over-media-remarks-as-anti-graft-minister/>