

**Umno hatched 'DDD Brigade' to demonise and destroy DAP, says Kit Siang
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 4 — It was a rich Umno that formed a special "DDD Brigade" and dreamt up the fictitious "Red Bean Army" as part of an elaborate plot to take down the DAP at the elections, Lim Kit Siang said today.

In a bid to crush rumours linking his party to a purported 3,000-strong band of digital warriors named after a legume popularly used in Chinese desserts, the veteran opposition lawmaker sought to reverse the table on his party's political foe by accusing advisors close to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak of funding a secret and elaborate scheme to "demonise and destroy the DAP", or DDD for short, from last September.

"The spawning of the outrageous allegation of a fictitious DAP-funded 'Red Bean Army' of 3,000 cybertroopers with a budget of RM100 million to RM1 billion in the past six years is just one of tasks of this secretive but well-funded 'DDD' Brigade," the Gelang Patah MP (picture) said in a statement.

He claimed that the DAP's investigations had showed the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition through its anchor party, Umno, had conspired against the mostly Chinese party eight months before Najib announced Parliament would be dissolved on April 3, to pave the way for Malaysia's 13th general election.

The "DDD Brigade", according to Lim, was tasked with sowing distrust, conflict and strife among DAP members, to question the party leadership's credibility in public by painting it as a Chinese chauvinist party that is anti-Malay and anti-Indian.

He noted that the brigade had raised its attacks against the DAP after its party elections last December 16 by harping on about technical glitches over the party's poll results as covering up major irregularities and pushing for its deregistration as a political entity.

He pointed to the increased lopsided news coverage in Umno and BN-controlled media, particularly its newspapers Utusan Malaysia, New Straits Times, Berita Harian and The Star, from September as being part of the triple-D brigade's three-pronged objectives to ensure the opposition party's defeat to MCA in the Sungai Pelek state constituency in Selangor, the return of Selangor to BN and the DAP's annihilation in the general election.

"An analysis of the lies and falsehoods deployed by this DDD Brigade shows the depth and depravity the Umno/BN 'War Room' was prepared to countenance just to demolish and destroy the DAP, completely bereft of all respect for truth, justice and ethics," Lim said.

The DAP advisor, however, claimed the electorate managed to foil this attempt, by voting back to power the incumbent Lai Nyuk Lan in the Sungai Pelek state seat by a 1,972 majority in Election 2013 and raising the party's share of seats in the Selangor state assembly to 15 and nationally to 38 in the 222-member Dewan Rakyat.

Several mainstream newspapers run by political appointees picked by Umno and its BN partners have been carrying near daily reports on the Red Bean Army weeks after the May 5 polls.

The most recent was Umno-owned Malay broadsheet Utusan Malaysia, seen as representative of the party's right-wing voice, citing the police were investigating a Malaysian-owned electronic firm in Taiwan for allegedly funding the Red Bean Army, citing an unnamed source who said a photograph of the company's founder with Lim had been published online.

The source also reportedly said the unnamed firm had opened a branch in Penang, with the daily saying that the firm is allegedly believed to have close ties with the Penang state administration.

On May 25, Utusan Malaysia front-paged a report alleging that some 200 Red Bean Army members are on the DAP's payroll earning up to RM3,000 monthly and that the party has been spending some RM1.5 million over the past six years to fund the operation.

The report also claimed that the duty of the Red Bean Army is to attack any politician, businessman or entertainer who are seen as pro-BN via social media sites.

But in an immediate response at the time, Lim had said his party would not have the financial muscle to pull off such an expensive operation, noting that if it had spent RM1.5 million monthly over the past six years to run the RBA, it would have spent an overall sum of RM108 million.

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