

**All GE13 racism originated from BN, Kit Siang claims
Malaysian Insider
June 9, 2013
BY CLARA CHOOI**

KUALA LUMPUR, June 9 — Lim Kit Siang suggested today that Barisan Nasional (BN) was guilty of all racist drivel spewed during the May 5 polls, singling out Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the chief protagonist behind the pact's allegedly racial campaign.

Continuing his tirade against the country's longest-serving prime minister, Lim claimed in a statement here that Dr Mahathir had shocked Malaysians when it was his voice that was the "most extremist and racist".

"Dr Mahathir... shocked and outraged many Malaysians with his recent conduct where both during and after the 13GE, he had been one of the most extremist and racist voices in the country," he said, referring to the just-concluded Election 2013.

"In the evening of his days, Dr Mahathir should be a model Malaysian instead of being a stereotypical racist, seeking to pit the Malays against the Chinese," he added.

In the 15-day campaign period before the May 5 polls, Dr Mahathir emerged as BN's campaigner-in-chief, traversing the length and breadth of Malaysia to bat for Team Najib.

The influential leader played the race card incessantly and picked particularly hard on Lim, his long-time arch nemesis, and the DAP, repeatedly telling large Malay majority ceramah crowds that the opposition party was filled with racists.

BN emerged the winner in the polls but is now saddled with a divided Malaysia, an outcome that Dr Mahathir and other right-wing elements in the ruling Umno have blamed on the "ungrateful" Chinese.

In a blog posting earlier this week, Dr Mahathir said that the results of the May 5 polls had demonstrated the existence of "Chinese racism", which he alleged was fanned by the DAP to ensure the community's domination of Malaysian politics.

"The DAP playing on racial sentiments drew the Chinese away from BN (Barisan Nasional) by depicting the MCA as lackeys of Umno," Dr Mahathir wrote.

"If today the schism between the races is deeper, it is because the DAP reject the Malay/Chinese/Indian 'kongsi'... Racial polarisation has become more pronounced as a result. It will become more so in the future'," he added, referring to BN's power-sharing concept among its race-based component parties.

Noting Dr Mahathir's conduct pre- and post-Election 2013, Lim asked BN and Umno leaders how they could point the finger at Pakatan Rakyat (PR) for being racists.

"If there is an independent study and investigation into the speeches and statements made during and after the 13th general election, I have no doubt that it would be found that all the racist and chauvinist utterances, inciting racial conflict and hatred, emanated from the Umno/BN side, whether from the UMNO/BN leaders or from their mouthpieces... whether official or unofficial, like Mahathir himself," he said.

Lim told Dr Mahathir to stop undermining his own advocacy of Vision 2020 and Bangsa Malaysia, repeating the need for the influential leader to become a "model Malaysian" if he had ever been serious about the two concepts.

"I would urge Mahathir to put national and Malaysian interests above his petty personal interests and considerations," he added.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/all-ge13-racism-originated-from-bn-kit-siang-claims/>