

**Be tough on racists like Dr M, Utusan, Kit Siang tells PM
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 14 - Datuk Seri Najib Razak should get tough on "racists like Mahathir and Utusan Malaysia" seeking to destroy peace and moderation with "racist lies and falsehoods", DAP's Lim Kit Siang said today.

He was responding to former prime minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad who had urged the government to no longer be soft towards the opposition "who continue to insult the nation's democratic system".

"If the time has come for the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Razak to be tough and to stop "giving face", it is to racists like Mahathir and Utusan Malaysia who have been seeking to destroy the message of peace and moderation with their ceaseless and reckless racist lies and falsehoods," Lim said in a statement.

The Gelang Patah MP pointed out that the pro-government New Straits Times reported today that "Najib tells tour bikers to relay moderation message", on behalf of Malaysia.

But he wondered about Najib's silence since the May 5 general election results to allow Dr Mahathir and Utusan Malaysia "to escalate their racist campaign of lies and falsehoods to engender racial distrust, hatred and conflict, completely against Najib's signature policy of 1Malaysia as well as over five decades of Malaysian nation-building?"

"I am utterly shocked that Mahathir, despite being Prime Minister for 22 years and whose political career was saved by the Chinese voters in the 1999 general elections, could be so reckless and irresponsible during and after the 13th general elections as to openly foment racial distrust, hatred and conflict, based on pure lies and falsehoods," he said.

Lim said that not content with the rejection of their message of racist falsehoods, lies and hatred, Dr Mahathir and Utusan Malaysia returned to Chinese-bashing and racist provocations with a vengeance after the 13th general elections.

"The question of me, DAP or any DAP leader having "hatred for Malays", or "hatred for Chinese", "hatred for Indians", "hatred for Kadazans" or "hatred for Dayaks", is a most dangerous and contemptible lie, especially coming from one who had been Prime Minister for 22 years.

"But this is a reflection of Mahathir's increasing sense of desperation facing a diminishing market for his racist vituperations and fulminations," he said.

Lim also pointed to Dr Mahathir's waning influence, saying otherwise he would have been defeated in Gelang Patah and the former Umno president would have "succeeded in tarring me as "No. 1 anti-Malay" in the country".

"But I am glad and more hopeful about the future of Malaysia because I find that Mahathir's racist lies and falsehoods have little market even among the Malays - and wherever I go after the 13th general elections, Malays regardless of background and age have come forward to congratulate me for my victory in Gelang Patah.

"Clearly, the Malays are not only forsaking Umno, they are forsaking Mahathir even more – showing that the former Prime Minister is facing the law of diminishing returns in his political influence," he said.

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