

Kit Siang makes another call for RCI on May 13 racial riots, 42 years later
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It is imperative that the Cabinet seriously considers establishing a Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) on the May 13, 1969, racial riots.

Lim Kit Siang (pic) made this call in a statement on his blog, as he believes it is the only way that younger Malaysians will finally get to know how and why this black mark in Malaysia's history took place.

In asking for the RCI to look into the incidents surrounding the bloody riots, Lim stressed that this was not for the purpose of punishing the culprits, but to allow the country to heal its worst racial wounds.

This is not the first time the veteran politician is making this call.

In his first speech in Parliament 42 years ago, in February 1971, Lim called for an RCI on the May 13 incident, to "find out what caused it, assess the racial polarisation in the country, to make recommendations to prevent a recurrence and arrest the racial polarisation in the country".

In the statement released today, Lim also called on movie director Shuhaimi Baba to list down the fictional and unverified incidents on the May 13 riots in her movie Tanda Putera, so as not to mislead and incite Malaysians, given that she had admitted that the film is a fictional account of events surrounding the racial riots.

"Shuhaimi Baba should seriously consider my advice. Although she prides herself as the original founder of horror films after directing a Pontianak film, she must not regard Tanda Putera as belonging to the genre of 'ghost films' she had directed in the past.

"She must instead be conscious of her sense of responsibility to the nation, especially to the present and future generations of Malaysians to protect and promote inter-racial goodwill, peace and harmony in the country," the veteran politician said.

One of the controversial scenes set in a cinema in Shuhaimi Baba's Tanda Putera. The Malaysian Insider pic, August 27, 2013. One of the controversial scenes set in a cinema in Shuhaimi Baba's Tanda Putera. The Malaysian Insider pic, August 27, 2013. He listed down three scenes singled out in a review on Tanda Putera done earlier this year, that was cause for concern and which could mislead and incite inter-racial mistrust, hatred and conflict.

The scenes are as follows:

A scene showing a group of Chinese youth urinating on a flag pole bearing the Selangor flag outside the residence of the then state menteri besar Harun Idris;

A scene in a cinema where the screen suddenly blacks out, replaced with Mandarin words asking the Chinese to leave the venue, which they do;

And the scene immediately after, where a man then shouts out, in Malay, why there were Chinese words on the screen and demands the movie be put back on. Then, suddenly, the remaining audience in the cinema is massacred.

Lim added that throughout the build-up of tensions and race riots in the movie, there is a mysterious Chinese man who observes the happenings, and is later revealed to be a communist leader - indicating that the communists may have had a hand in orchestrating the mayhem.

"I have questioned the historical veracity of the urination incident in the first instance. And are the second and third 'incidents' factual or are they pure figments of the imagination and totally fictional," he asked.

As such, instead of spending public funds to allow a movie director the "creative licence" to concoct fictitious events, Lim called on the Cabinet to establish an RCI on May 13.

"The RCI should ascertain the true events and causes of the May 13 riots, so that it can present the historical truth to current and future generations and to heal the country's worst racial wounds. It can then also remove the spectre of May 13 from being used at every general elections since 1969 to blackmail voters from freely exercising their constitutional right to vote or to justify the pursuit of divisive and unjust policies," Lim said. - August 27, 2013.

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