

**DBKL action on temple, another "BN project" gone wrong - Guan Eng
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DAP has flayed City Hall for being insensitive and high-handed in demolishing part of a 102-year-old temple in the Golden Triangle last Sunday, pointing out that this is another proof of Barisan Nasional's insensitivity towards other races in Malaysia.

Party secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said City Hall's "sacrilegious actions" against the Golden Triangle Sri Muneswarar Kaliyaman temple reflects the government's complete disregard for other faiths and cultures.

He said relocation of deities requires special rituals and prayers and should be done with proper care and respect.

"This episode comes in the wake of escalating racial and religious tension, especially against ethnic and religious minorities," he said in a statement today.

He referred to BN's blaming the Chinese for its loss of popular vote in the recent general election and the Tanda Putera movie, which attempted to pin the blame on the Chinese for instigating the May 13 racial riots, as examples of lesser racial tolerance.

"As ethnic and religious minorities face increasing persecution, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Najib Razak's 1Malaysia promise has all but dissipated," he said.

The temple, which was built in 1911 in Jalan P. Ramlee, sits on reserve land meant for roads or walkways, and City Hall last Sunday claimed back eight feet of land.

Scores of worshippers rushed to protect the temple, raising the temperature in Malaysia's religious landscape and pitting the ruling BN government against politicians from its own coalition.

Last year, the temple committee received an eviction notice after Hap Seng Land, which is building a 30-storey office block on the adjacent plot, was told that it would be given a certificate-of-fitness only if it built a 2.4-metre walkway along the building, in line with City Hall requirements.

But that could not be done because the temple occupies the land. Despite the intervention of local government, the temple committee and the developer failed to come to an agreement.

The developer previously offered to relocate the temple to Sepang but it was rejected as the temple has historical value.

After numerous failed attempts to reach an agreement, the developer took City Hall to court. The court then served an injunction on the temple and City Hall served it an eviction notice.

The temple houses two main deities, Muneswarar and Kaliamman, hence its name.

Several politicians, including MIC Youth Chief, T. Mohan and PKR's deputy human rights

chief S. Jayathas were arrested when they tried to stop City Hall from demolishing the temple on Sunday. - September 7, 2013.

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