

**Chinese Newspapers Slammed For Making Bumiputera Economic Agenda A Racial Issue**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 19 (Bernama)-- Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor today hit out at those Chinese newspapers which try to turn the Bumiputera Economic Empowerment agenda into a racial issue.

He said the action of these vernacular newspapers could adversely affect racial unity in the country which had been strongly established since a long time ago.

"We don't want to see newspapers, particularly the Chinese newspapers, to create the impression that the government is ignoring the Chinese community with the launching of the Bumiputera Economic Empowerment Programmes by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak recently. It is not true.

"When we assist the Bumiputeras, we are not sidelining the Chinese and Indian communities. This has never happened in the nation's history," he said after attending Kuala Lumpur City Hall's (DBKL) 44th Enforcement Day parade, here, Thursday.

Also present were his deputy Datuk Dr Loga Bala Mohan Jaganathan and Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib.

Tengku Adnan said the implementation of the agenda was to create economic balance between the races in the country as the Bumiputeras' economic position was still weak compared to that of the Chinese.

"Racial economic balance is important to preserve unity and harmony in this country," he said.

Tengku Adnan said he was surprised with the attitude of some of the vernacular newspapers, which he felt had a certain motive as their comments on the agenda had racial overtones.

"I cannot read Chinese but when I got all the reports regarding this Chinese newspaper, I was shocked," he added.

Najib, in his speech when launching the Bumiputera Economic Empowering agenda last Saturday, had appealed to Malaysians not to misunderstand or misconstrue the effort as it would not be trespassing on or taking away the rights and interests of the other communities.

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