

**Mukhriz punishing Chinese in Kedah, says DAP's Teresa Kok**  
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**BY LEE SHI-IAN**

DAP national vice-chairperson Teresa Kok today said Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir (pic) has backtracked on his "Dare to Change" slogan by discriminating against the state's Chinese community.

"It is clear Mukhriz is punishing the Chinese community in Kedah for not supporting him or Barisan Nasional," the Seputeh Member of Parliament he said in a statement.

On September 24, Mukhriz reportedly said the state government would not entertain any requests from Chinese schools in Kedah. Saying the Malays are the majority in Kedah, Mukhriz said he could not neglect those who supported the Barisan Nasional government.

"Mukhriz claims he wants to be fair but it is clear he is giving priority to those who helped him. If there are any extras, only then he will consider helping others," Kok said.

She added it was clear that Mukhriz was practising politics of vengeance to punish the Chinese in the state for not supporting him during the 13th general election.

"His stance is unfair, undemocratic and unacceptable to the Chinese community and Chinese schools in Kedah," Kok added.

"Mukhriz is not consistent with his slogan 'Berani Ubah' (Dare to Change) which he used in his quest for the Umno Youth chief's post in 2008."

Kok pointed out that Mukhriz, currently vying for the Umno vice-presidency, has also used the same slogan recently.

In December 2008, Mukhriz, the son of former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad, called for the abolition of vernacular schools in order to foster greater unity among the people.

He said a single school system was the only way to check racial polarisation in Malaysia.

But Kok said vernacular schools should not be blamed.

"Vernacular schools or languages are not the cause of racial polarisation," she said.

"If Mukhriz is going to be the young blood that Umno needs, one can't help but worry what kind of changes he will introduce into Umno.

"I urge him to first change himself and be a Menteri Besar who treats all races fairly," added Kok. - September 29, 2013.

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