

DAP demands Ahmad Zahid and Shabery apologise for "lies"
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DAP has called for two Umno ministers to apologise for their "lies" in explaining the RM1.6-million bill for the performances of three K-Pop groups and RM1.3 million missing police equipment, a day after the auditor-general disputed their explanations.

Secretary-general Lim Guan Eng (pic) said former Youth and Sports minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek and Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had misled the public with their explanations on the two issues, which were raised in the 2012 Auditor General Report released in Parliament last week.

Ahmad Shabery had insisted the money for the three K-Pop groups came from sponsors for last year's World Youth Day celebrations while Ahmad Zahid had backed the Inspector-General of Police over the missing equipment, which included 44 firearms and 29 police vehicles, concurring that they might have fallen into the sea.

Auditor-general Tan Sri Ambrin Buang had told The Malaysian Insider that in the case of the K-Pop groups, neither the ministry's officials nor the council had challenged the fact that the money came from government allocations channelled through the National Youth Council during discussions with both parties in the course of the audit.

In the case of the missing police equipment, there was no reply from the police, Ambrin added.

"Malaysians have more confidence that Ambrin was telling the truth and that Ahmad Zahid and Ahmad Shabery were lying.

"Both Umno ministers should apologise to all Malaysians after Ambrin exposed their lies," Lim said in a statement today.

He also called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to take immediate action if he wanted to retain public trust that his ministers are honest, competent and professional.

Lim said the failings and financial wrongdoings exposed in the auditor-general's report highlighted the criminal breach of compliance in five key principles required in managing public funds – need for public accountability, transparency, value for money, open and fair competition, and fair dealings.

He noted the failings and financial wrongdoings in the government are critical for the economy because the annual procurement of goods, works and services comes to 25% of the nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) compared with other developed economies whose annual procurement is only 12% of the GDP.

"These excesses, wastage and financial wrongdoings have a negative impact on the economy's growth rate.

"Malaysia is losing twice more than developed nations through corruption and wastage of public funds," he said.

Lim called on Barisan Nasional leaders to stop being in a state of denial and address the weaknesses identified in the auditor-general's report. – October 9, 2013.

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