

Putrajaya shows lack of 'heart' in dealing with issues in Chinese schools, says Guan Eng Malaysian Insider

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BY LOOI SUE-CHERN

Putrajaya has shown a lack of "heart" in solving longstanding issues affecting Chinese schools in the country, Lim Guan Eng (pic) said today.

The Penang chief minister said the federal government has been taking its time in solving problems like the shortage of teachers.

"If it was PR, we would have solved it in one term. How many terms do the government need to solve this?" he said at his office in Komtar.

It has been reported that Chinese schools, namely primary schools, have been experiencing a shortage of teachers in recent years.

The issue is a major concern to the Chinese community and many see it as a way to undermine the operation of Chinese primary schools.

Lim also said another issue Putrajaya had not been able to solve was the issue of recognition for the Unified Examination Certificate (UEC) by Malaysian Independent Chinese Secondary Schools (MICSS).

The UEC is not a recognised qualification for entry into public higher learning institutions in Malaysia because the federal government does not deem the teaching and learning systems at independent Chinese secondary schools as following the policies and curriculum of the National Education System.

Chinese education groups have long pushed for the UEC to be recognised.

Lim earlier presented over RM1.1 million in aid to 10 secondary Chinese schools in Penang. Most of the funds are to be spent on facility upgrades and maintenance to help the schools cope with increasing enrolment.

He also called for more funding to be given to Chinese schools to support their efforts in producing

quality students.

He said there are 78 national type Chinese secondary schools with over 120,000 students nationwide.

"Regular funding is needed. The money cannot come periodically like once in five years. The government will not waste money if it is for education," he said.

Citing national type Chinese schools in Penang as an example, Lim said such schools had been producing the top students in the state.

"Such schools are not very well-regarded outside Penang but they are the elite schools in the state where the best students come from.

"They can maintain their high standards so there is need to give them the necessary funds and attention," he added. – February 11, 2014.

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