

DAP urges Najib, cabinet to go for refresher course on Rukun Negara
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The DAP wants Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his cabinet to attend a refresher course on the Rukun Negara when they convene on Wednesday.

Its adviser Lim Kit Siang (pic) said it was evident that Najib and his cabinet members had forgotten the principles and spirit of the Rukun Negara.

"More than 40 years after the Rukun Negara had been drawn up and recited by students across Malaysia, it is clear that many Malaysians have forgotten the lessons of the past," Lim said in a statement today.

Lim said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's most notable achievement over the past five years was his repudiation of Najib's 1Malaysia concept.

Muhyiddin raised a nationwide uproar when he declared in 2010 that he was "Malay first, Malaysian second", explaining that if he put being Malaysian first, he would be shunned by the Malay community.

The 1Malaysia concept was introduced to build a nation where every citizen regarded themselves as Malaysian first – with race, religion, region or socio-economic status second.

"What did Muhyiddin do? He declared that he was a 'Malay first, Malaysian second'," Lim said.

"This is an infringement of the second principle of Rukun Negara, which is loyalty to king and country.

"How can Muhyiddin claim to be loyal to the country when he is not prepared to unconditionally accept the Rukun Negara?"

Lim challenged Muhyiddin to modify his declaration and say that he is "Malaysian first, Malay second", similar to what Lim did in Parliament in March 2010.

"I said clearly in Parliament that I was a 'Malaysian first, Chinese second'," Lim said.

He also criticised the nation's top cop, saying Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar also violated the principles of Rukun Negara.

"Khalid has clearly forgotten the principles of upholding the constitution and the rule of law," Lim said.

Lim said police were guilty of double standards by practicing selective investigation and selective prosecution.

"Police acted swiftly in probing Catholic weekly The Herald editor Father Lawrence Andrew and Seputeh MP Teresa Kok for sedition.

"But they have either been slow, indifferent or uninterested in offences committed by Perak mufti Tan Sri Harussani Zakaria and the Council of Islamic NGOs."

Lawrence caused an uproar in December last year when he said that churches in Selangor would continue to use the word "Allah" during their Bahasa Malaysia services.

His remark came after the Sultan of Selangor's previous edict barring non-Muslims in the state from using the word "Allah".

Teresa Kok, on the other hand, aroused the anger of Muslim NGOs when she released a video "Onderful Malaysia CNY 2014" earlier this month.

This prompted the self-styled Council of Islamic NGOs to protest against Kok's video and offer a cash reward to anyone who slapped her.

Harussani also sparked outrage early January when he said it was permissible for police to spill the blood of protesters during a gathering on New Year's Eve at Dataran Merdeka.

Lim said Putrajaya's losing battle against corruption showed that the government had also violated the spirit and principles of Rukun Negara.

"Since the 13th general election in May last year, what results does Putrajaya have to show for its nation building efforts?"

Lim said if everyone, including leaders in Putrajaya, were to adopt the Rukun Negara wholeheartedly, Malaysia would not be in the state it is in today.

"Malaysia is facing the worst racial and religious polarisation in its history today," Lim said.

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