

DAP dares PM to run poll over claim that Barisan helped Chinese prosper

Malaysian Insider

May 3, 2014

By Eileen Ng

DAP has challenged the prime minister to conduct an independent survey on the impact of Putrajaya's policies on the Chinese community, hours after Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) government's policies have helped ensure the community's success in Malaysia.

DAP vice-chairman Teresa Kok said she is certain results of the survey would show the majority disagreed with Najib's claim.

She said the fact the Chinese electorate had thumbed their noses at BN in both the 2008 and 2013 general elections clearly indicated the community's feelings about Putrajaya.

"Datuk Seri Najib's claim that BN has ensured a fair share of opportunities in the country that led to most Chinese being relatively successful is far from the truth, and can only be viewed as an attempt to downplay the extra hard work the community has to do and the unfair conditions they have to face in order to succeed," she said in a statement.

Earlier today, Najib, while acknowledging that the community's drive, industriousness and entrepreneurial skills have contributed to the country's development all these years, said BN's policies had contributed to peace and harmony that enabled them to flourish.

"But we have to admit that BN's policies ensure peace and harmony, and ensure a fair share of opportunities in the country that led to most Chinese being relatively successful here," he said in his speech at MCA's "Stronger Together" campaign aimed at reviving the fortunes and uniting the senior BN party after its dismal performance in the general election last year.

Citing education as an example of a sector close to the community's hearts and which the national policies had benefitted the Chinese, Najib said no country outside of China and Taiwan have incorporated Chinese education as part of the national education system.

"Our forefathers chose integration and not assimilation like Thailand or Indonesia. Because of that, we can see the number of Chinese and Chinese independent schools in Malaysia," said the BN chairman.

To this, Kok said Najib was "dreaming", adding that the premier should know better that until today, there are still many long-standing problems facing Chinese education that have not been resolved.

Among them, said the Seputeh MP, are unfair allocations as well as shortage of schools and teachers.

"These are among the various and long-standing issues faced by the Chinese primary schools and have long been highlighted by opposition parties, Chinese groups and community, yet the government has not resolved these problems despite having been in power for decades.

"Even till today, the boards of Chinese school have to fork out their own money to employ temporary teachers due to teacher shortage," she said.

She also said that concerns over lack of fair educational opportunities at local universities was one of the main factors that resulted in many Chinese leaving the country for overseas opportunities.

"If Datuk Seri Najib is committed to the 1Malaysia concept, he should implement colour blind policies which will help strengthen the sense of belonging among all Malaysians and forge genuine unity among all races," she added. – May 3, 2014.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/dap-dares-pm-to-run-poll-over-claim-that-barisan-helped-chinese-prosper>