

**Muhyiddin wanted to deflect attention with 'May 13' warning,
says Kit Siang
Malaysian Insider
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Lim Kit Siang has accused Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin of raising the spectre of another May 13 to deflect attention from the latter's failure as an education minister.

The DAP adviser said the latest violation of academic freedom in Universiti Malaya was a case in point.

"I hope there will be a minister who will ask Muhyiddin about this (in the cabinet meeting this Wednesday). But will any minister dare to ask Muhyiddin this question point-blank?" he asked today in a statement.

The Malaysian Insider had reported that the Education Ministry had told Redzuan to quit as director of Universiti Malaya's Centre for Democracy and Elections (UMcedel), while his tenure as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in the university was also not renewed.

Today, former UM vice-chancellor Tan Sri Professor Dr Ghauth Jasmon revealed that he was constantly harassed by Putrajaya over the unflattering findings by UMcedel, lending weight to claims that the ruling Barisan Nasional coalition was unhappy with its work.

Last week, Muhyiddin had warned that Malaysia could see another "bloody incident" if no efforts were made to preserve inter-ethnic harmony.

"That is why all sorts of assumptions are raised when ethnic ties

become strained and unhealthy. This could lead to that incident, and I do not want to mention the date (May 13, 1969)," Umno-owned Utusan Malaysia had quoted Muhyiddin as saying, adding the date of the 1969 racial riots in parenthesis in its report.

Lim said any deputy prime minister who could issue a threat of another May 13 was not fit to hold the post, adding that a cabinet that "condones, endorses or sanitises" such a threat was also unworthy.

MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, who is also the newly minted Transport Minister, had defended Muhyiddin, saying that it was merely a reminder to Malaysians not to take unity for granted.

Lim, in slamming the ministers, suggested that they "re-read and digest" the Malaysian Proclamation of Independence by the Father of Independence and the first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman.

"The Proclamation of Malaysia pledged that Malaysia shall 'forever be an independent and sovereign democratic state founded upon liberty and justice, ever seeking to defend and uphold peace and harmony among its people and to perpetuate peace among nations'.

"Muhyiddin has shown no commitment to the ideals of justice and liberty for the nation to be 'a beacon of light in a disturbed and distracted world' but is doing his worst for Malaysia to be part of a disturbed and distracted world," the Gelang Patah MP said.

The deputy prime minister's threat, he added, had given legitimacy to extremist groups who had threatened similar racial riots and who were responsible for the "worst racial and religious polarisation in the country".

"Muhyiddin was not only dishonest but downright irresponsible when he tried to justify his May 13 threat on the grounds that the Malays and Islam were under siege in Malaysia, when there can be no basis for such belief, which is the mischievous creation of those who want to sow and incite racial and religious discord in the country," Lim said.

He expressed hope that there would be a minister who would ask Muhyiddin about his threat and whether it was meant to divert attention away from his failure as education minister.

"All eyes are now on the cabinet meeting on Wednesday, whether it would reprimand Muhyiddin for the mischievous and irresponsible May 13 threat, and what steps and assurances the cabinet can give to Malaysians and the international community that another May 13 is not possible in Malaysia," Lim said. – July 7, 2014.

- See more at:
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