

Guan Eng hits out at PAS leader over 'Penang tunnel' remark
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BY LOOI SUE-CHERN

Penang chief minister Lim Guan Eng today slammed a PAS central committee member who questioned his handling of the state's finances and undersea tunnel project.

Lim (pic), who is also the DAP secretary-general, said he was shocked by Temerloh MP Nasrudin Hassan's sudden and unprovoked attack against him.

Saying that Nasrudin was "relying on baseless claims and lies", Lim gave him 24 hours to apologise or face legal action.

Nasrudin yesterday defended embattled Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim over the Kidex deal, and said Pakatan Rakyat (PR) was practising double standards when it did not question Lim's similarly controversial undersea tunnel project.

"Nasruddin has 24 hours to unreservedly and unconditionally withdraw his lies and apologise to me," Lim told a press conference in his Komtar office today.

Lim said if the PAS MP failed to do so, he would take legal action for the "lies he (Nasrudin) made which was similar to that by pro-Barisan Nasional and pro-Umno social media cybertroopers".

Lim said Nasruddin should withdraw his accusations and apologise if he considers himself is a good Muslim and not a hypocrite.

"If not, he is behaving dishonourably and no different from Umno."

"I will be left with no choice but to treat him like BN by instructing my lawyers to take action against him for making blatant slander and lies against me and the state government," he said.

Nasrudin, who made the remark in his Facebook page, said he failed to understand why Khalid was being bashed for the proposed expressway when it was a federal project, in which the state has no say in matters related to the project's cost, concession period, or concessionaire.

The proposed 14.9km Kinrara-Damansara Expressway, or Kidex is the most expensive expressway in the country, estimated to cost RM161 million per km.

"I think it is strange that Khalid is blasted over a project that is not even under his purview," Nasrudin said.

As for the tunnel project, Nasrudin said Lim's government has tendered out the building of a 6.5km undersea tunnel linking Bagan Ajam on the mainland and Persiaran Gurney on the island, costing RM4.63 billion.

Nasrudin questioned why the tender was given through direct negotiation instead.

At the same time, Nasrudin criticised Lim for the way he managed Penang's finances, citing the forecasted RM255.44 million deficit that the state will record for this year.

A visibly annoyed Lim said he never commented on Kidex or how the project was awarded, adding that Nasrudin had never communicated with him about Penang matters.

"I have no interest in playing along with his political games. I am making this rebuttal because of the lies that have severely tarnished my reputation and my state government's standing."

Overriding Nasrudin's allegation, Lim told reporters that the tunnel project was awarded via open tender and cost about RM3.6 billion, not RM4.63 billion as the PAS politician had claimed.

He said public feedback gathering exercises like consultations and town hall meetings were carried out before the last general election.

On his handling of state finances, Lim said Penang has been recording surpluses each year and not deficit as claimed by Nasrudin.

He said the surpluses were also certified by the Auditor-General's Reports, which stated that Penang recorded surpluses of RM88 million in 2008, RM77.3 million in 2009, RM33.5 million in 2010, RM138.3 million in 2011 and RM114.4 million in 2012.

"For 2013, Penang is expected to record a small surplus," Lim added.

Asked whether he would push for disciplinary action against Nasrudin, Lim said he would wait for the PAS leader's response before proceeding further.

Meanwhile, Consortium Zenith BUCG Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk ZarulAhmad Zulkifli said he was left speechless by the allegations.

He said Nasrudin should have checked his facts before making the statement.

"I don't know what to say. We have time and again explained to the world that there was an open tender for this tunnel project.

"It was all in the newspapers. We even had roadshows (to inform the people about the project)." he said. – August 7, 2014.

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/guan-eng-hits-out-at-pas-leader-for-penang-tunnel-remark>