

Guan Eng accuses Zahid of turning DAP into a scapegoat
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BY HIMANSHU BHATT

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng today accused the home minister of making the party a scapegoat in trying to wriggle away from criticism levelled at him, following his reported remarks on non-Malays.

Lim said Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi was making the turnaround by claiming that his remarks were directed at DAP, after bearing the brunt of admonitions, including from leaders of other parties in the Barisan Nasional (BN).

"I feel this is a way to oppress and victimise the DAP," said Lim, who is also Penang chief minister, after chairing a state executive council meeting in George Town today.

Zahid was quoted as saying this when launching the Umno Segambut divisional meeting on September 1 that Malays were now "paying the price for being kind to them" and that as a result, the non-Malays were insulting the Bumiputera, royalty and Islam.

Leaders of MIC, MCA and Gerakan reacted by saying that if The Sun Daily's report on September 1 was true, Zahid's disparaging remarks were uncalled for.

Zahid, who is also Umno vice-president, yesterday said his comments were in reference to DAP members and has been taken out of context.

Lim said Zahid's original comment was also reported in the Chinese daily, China Press.

He asked Zahid to state the instances where DAP leaders had insulted Malays as reported.

"We have members from three (main) races. We will not insult our own members. This does not make sense at all.

"He has done wrong, and he is now forcing us to bear it, and making us the scapegoat."

Lim said Zahid dragged DAP to avoid repercussions of what he had said, and insisted he should withdraw his remarks and apologise to all.

"As home minister, this is completely unacceptable.

"If he is a man of dignity and he had said it, he should withdraw and apologise and move on, instead of pinning the blame on the DAP."

Meanwhile, Lim said the party had also submitted its nominations for the Selangor menteri besar to the sultan.

But, he declined to reveal more, saying the party would issue a written statement in due course. – September 3, 2014.

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