

Unite against 'new despotism', Kit Siang urges Malaysians as sedition blitz continues
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DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang today called on Malaysians to unite and save the country from what he termed as a 'new despotism' which has reared its ugly head as Malaysia celebrated its 57th independence.

Lim (pic) said while Pakatan Rakyat lawmakers were charged with sedition in the past week, Umno ministers and leaders were getting away with statements which could incite religious and racial extremism.

Referring to University Malaya law professor Azmi Sharom who was charged with sedition over his comments on the 2009 Perak crisis, Lim said Azmi was merely giving his legal opinion.

"This has to be viewed as a very serious assault on academic freedom," he said, adding the number of selective and malicious prosecution in Malaysia was on the rise.

Among opposition leaders charged with sedition and criminal defamation so far are Padang Serai MP N. Surendran (PKR), former Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin (PAS), Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad (PAS), Pandan MP Rafizi, and Seri Delima state assemblyman R.S.N. Rayer (DAP).

"It is clear Putrajaya is attempting to stifle dissent in Malaysia by carrying out the most number of prosecutions on sedition and other criminal charges.

"Who would have imagined Malaysia's 57th birthday would see multiple assaults on the nation's democracy, rule of law, press and academic freedom?" he asked.

Lim also expressed regret that Malaysiakini reporter Susan Loone was being investigated for carrying out her duties as a journalist.

Yesterday, PKR's Kelana Jaya MP Wong Chen warned that Malaysia's economy might

be affected by the sedition blitz initiated by Putrajaya, saying the developments had been widely reported by foreign media.

"Foreign investors will be aware that the rule of law is being flouted by Putrajaya and this could dent their confidence in Malaysia.

"Where is the fairness and justice? This is selective prosecution as there are clear cases of certain parties and individuals who made seditious statements but get away with it," said Wong Chen.

"Technocrats in Barisan Nasional should be aware of these and urge the leaders in Putrajaya to put a stop to the recent sedition blitz." – September 4, 2014.

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