

BN leaders should publicly declare their wealth, not just to Najib, says DAP
The Malaysian Insider
March 22, 2015

DAP wants Barisan Nasional (BN) ministers and chief ministers to declare their assets to the public instead to the prime minister.

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said there was nothing to fear about declaring one's assets in public if one has no ill-gotten or unexplained wealth, but a failure to do so would leave an impression that there was something to hide.

"By failing to make public their declaration of assets, leaves an unfortunate impression that BN leaders have something to hide.

"The declaration of assets by BN ministers or chief ministers to the prime minister have shown to be completely ineffective in establishing integrity in leadership or curbing corruption.

"The failure to make public declaration of assets is akin to failure to establish integrity in leadership by blocking public accountability, transparency and scrutiny," he said today.

Lim, who is Bagan MP, was responding to Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar's claims that BN leaders had declared their assets to the prime minister and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Lim called it a "sham perversion of the concept of public declaration of assets and a contrary to internationally accepted anti-corruption practices".

He also questioned if any BN minister would dare to ask the people whether they opposed the idea of public declaration of assets by their government leaders.

"The public's demand for transparency and accountability has become more urgent following revelations of lavish lifestyle and ownership of luxury apartments overseas of family members of top BN leaders from the prime minister, ministers right down to the chief ministers.

"Public declaration of assets will enable BN leaders to also prove that they feel the rakyat's pain during difficult economic conditions, especially now with the GST (good and services tax) coming."

Lim, who is also Penang chief minister, also rebuked the belief that by declaring his or her assets publicly, a minister would jeopardise personal safety of his or her family members.

He said the Penang government had ordered its Pakatan Rakyat (PR) chief minister, exco members and assemblymen to declare their assets publicly.

The declaration of assets, he said, was even updated periodically, and still no threats were ever made against them and their families.

Last Tuesday, veteran Umno lawmaker Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said past and present cabinet members should be required to declare their assets and liabilities to avoid conflict of interests and promote good governance.

The Gua Musang MP said all parliamentarians should be included in such practice, as well as high-ranking civil and private sector officials who had the power to make decisions.

"Such declarations should be made periodically and has to be kept by an independent body created by an Act of Parliament," he said in his speech while debating the Royal Address in Parliament.

His proposal came on the heels of a move by PKR's Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli to declare his wealth last week.

Rafizi had revealed that his nett worth was about RM1.56 million, stating that he did not have any other income except for his salary and allowance totalling RM11,710 as an MP.

Rafizi had made the statutory declaration after being challenged by Cheras Umno division chief Datuk Seri Syed Ali Alhabshee who had urged Pakatan MPs to declare their wealth.

This followed incessant statements from Pakatan leaders who questioned Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's wealth, which had been attributed to inheritance.

Recently, the Selangor PR government also announced that its exco members would publicly declare their assets soon, following Rafizi's move.

Menteri Besar Mohamed Azmin Ali said the move to publicly declare their assets had been part of PR's policy and this had been done before once in 2008. – March 22, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/bn-leaders-should-publicly-declare-their-wealth-not-just-to-najib-says-dap>