

DAP working harder to become fully Malaysian party, says Kit Siang
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DAP has denied it will become a "narrow-minded Chinese party" in the aftermath of Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) break-up, and instead said it would redouble its efforts to become one that is "fully Malaysian".

DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang said the party had always sought the support of all Malaysians, and being "anti-Malay or anti-Islam" would defeat such a purpose.

"DAP had never aspired to be a Chinese or non-Malay party and in the post-PR scenario, we will double up in our resolve to be a fully Malaysian party, strengthening our Malay, Dayak and Kadazandusun membership and support in keeping with our Malaysian ideals and aspirations," he said at a forum in Klang last night.

He said this was why DAP was working on its "Impian" development projects in various states, including Sabah, Sarawak, Kelantan, Kedah and Perlis, to help Malaysians regardless of race and religion.

The Gelang Patah MP said the projects were born from the belief that everyone was entitled to develop his potential and rights, regardless of ethnicity, and that the country could not progress if any of its people remained poor.

Lim added that DAP's track record of fielding candidates from various race and religion since the 1969 general election proved the party was inclusive from the beginning.

"In fact, in the 1969 general election, two Malay assemblymen were elected, one in Perak and the other in Negri Sembilan. In the past 11 general elections, DAP had elected Malay members of parliament and state assembly representatives in the peninsula.

"In the 2013 general election, we fielded a Kadazan candidate who was voted in as assemblyman in Sabah and we look forward to the election of the first Dayak representative in the next Sarawak elections," said Lim.

He said he believed fewer Malaysians identified themselves by their ethnicity, and that the way forward for the country was to have it governed by interracial, inter-religious and inter-party cooperation.

He added that the PR common policy principles and policies of "national unity, justice, progress and prosperity remain valid, relevant and achievable in the 14th general election" despite the opposition pact's demise. – June 24, 2015.

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/dap-working-harder-to-become-fully-malaysian-party-says-kit-siang#sthash.HuoIUbpC.dpbs>