

New DPM already tearing Malaysians apart, says Guan Eng
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By Anisah Shukry

Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's remarks that Malaysia can achieve racial harmony if it shuts down vernacular schools was irresponsible and unbecoming of a deputy prime minister, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said.

The country's number two has barely been in an office for a week, and he is already turning his back against the Federal Constitution and threatening to destroy unity, said Lim.

"His statement that the vernacular schools should be abolished is deep regretted. It is irresponsible and inappropriate for a new deputy prime minister. He should be uniting the people and defending the constitution," Lim told a press conference in Empire Hotel, Subang.

"DAP stands by the status of Bahasa Malaysia as the official and national language of Malaysia, as stated in the constitution. But it also says clearly that vernacular schools are allowed to exist."

He said the home minister's proposed universal system of education would see the end of religious schools as well as vernacular schools.

"DAP firmly disagrees with his statement. It can tear the people apart. We hope the deputy prime minister can unite the people, rather than split them," said Lim.

Lim also criticised newly appointed deputy defence minister Datuk Mohd Johari Baharum for allegedly saying that if he were in the home ministry, he would shut down several Chinese newspapers for stirring up racial sentiments.

Lim said it was a sign of double standards, given that Umno-owned newspaper Utusan Malaysia often carried racist reports.

"Even though we have new ministers and deputy prime ministers, they're still using their old brains. They aren't using their powers to help the people, but to oppress and threaten Malaysians."

He also condemned the police's attempt to remand the 29 individuals arrested yesterday during an anti-Najib rally organised by youth activist group Demi Malaysia.

He said it was unlikely that the 29 would attempt to flee if they were called for questioning by the police.

Lim added that he agreed with Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal that Umno must resolve three big issues: 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), he goods and services tax (GST) and Felda.

"We agree with the minister who was recently sacked, Shafie, that Najib must explain those three issues. He was only sacked from Cabinet because he raised those issues in the first place." – August 2, 2015.

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