

DAP accepts Najib's challenge to declare funding sources, says Guan Eng
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By Looi Sue Chern

DAP will declare its accounts at its national congress, party secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said today, accepting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's challenge that opposition parties reveal their sources of political funding.

He said it was already a practice in DAP for its account to be submitted in its annual report at the congress for all to see.

He said if Najib wanted DAP to show their books, they would do it at the congress and the Umno president should not try to run from the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) scandal.

"We have always been transparent. We accept Najib's challenge.

"Kita boleh tunjuk sama tunjuk (We can show each other's accounts)," he said in his speech at a DAP conference for pro tem committees in Penang today.

Lim, who is Penang chief minister, said DAP had nothing to hide and the state government had even proven to be a clean and trustworthy administration.

He said even without the use of "donations", Penang could deliver better than another government that was dirty and corrupt.

"Penang does not ask for donations to run the government and we are proud of that. We have given a model for that.

"Penang is also the only state where its reps are required to declare their assets. People can just go to our website and see the declarations.

"We are not afraid... if you want to show, just show," he said, poking fun at the challenge made by Najib recently.

Najib said the opposition parties, especially DAP, must first declare their political funding before he revealed his party's.

The prime minister is facing criticism over the RM2.6 billion "donation" that he received in his personal accounts shortly before the 2013 general election.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) have stated that the money did not come from troubled federal investment fund 1MDB, but from a Middle-Eastern donor.

Lim also slammed Putrajaya over the alleged interferences into the 1MDB-related investigations by MACC, especially the transfers of two of the commission's directors to the Prime Minister's Department with immediate effect.

"Can we ask for Najib to be transferred or to go on leave with immediate effect, too?" he said, adding that if the government had problems with MACC doing its job, the commission should just be shut down.

"Are they trying to make MACC the Malaysian Corruption Cover-up Commission?"

He pledged that DAP would not let the 1MDB issue slide, promising that the party and its colleagues in PKR and the Gerakan Harapan Baru (GHB) would fight those who defend the issue like Umno and the other Barisan Nasional component parties such as MCA, MIC and Gerakan, and even PAS.

DAP and former Pakatan Rakyat colleague PAS have broken ties over the hudud issue and lately, DAP has been criticising the Islamist party over its less critical approach against Umno over the 1MDB and RM2.6 billion issues.

Lim also highlighted the continuous drop of the ringgit, concerns about the economy, the people's livelihood and the loss of investor confidence due to financial scandals.

He said the people must reject an administration that was not performing well for the interest of the people.

"The people appreciate a government that is clean. We are confident that Penang can show the way," he said.

Lim also urged the over 200 DAP branches, with over 11,000 members that have yet to get approval from the Registry of Societies, to do their part to help.

With concerns that the applications of the branches will continue to be frozen by the registry, Lim urged them to join existing branches.

"This will allow all of you to be legal members with rights to vote in the party election. Just do that for now so everyone can play his or her part.

"When issues are settled with the registry, we can try to get the new branches approved," he said. – August 9, 2015.

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