

PM must announce greater autonomy plans for Sabah, Sarawak, says DAP
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Datuk Seri Najib Razak must take more substantive steps to restore genuine autonomy to Sabah and Sarawak to mark the anniversary of Malaysia's formation, said DAP.

Lim Kit Siang (pic, right), the party's parliamentary leader, said the prime minister should not just go to Kota Kinabalu for a public relations gimmick by joining the chief ministers of Sabah and Sarawak to sign the commemorative Malaysia Day document to re-enact the formation of Malaysia more than five decades ago.

He added that since Najib had committed to granting more autonomy to the two East Malaysian states, September 16 should mark a historic step as the start of Putrajaya honouring its commitment.

"More is expected of the prime minister, to do something more substantive as giving import and significance to the occasion, especially in the meeting of the prime minister with the chief ministers and Sabah and Sarawak, to mark Putrajaya's first important steps to restore genuine autonomy to Sabah and Sarawak," Lim said in a statement today.

He suggested four things the prime minister could do on Wednesday, such as announcing an agreement by Putrajaya to grant autonomy in education to Sabah and Sarawak beginning in 2016.

He also suggested a two-day debate in Parliament before the Budget 2016 presentation on the granting of greater autonomy to the two states, with the assurance that some of the proposals by the members of Parliament would be incorporated in the budget proposals.

The Gelang Patah MP proposed a Royal Commission of Inquiry to assess whether the dreams and aspirations of Sabahans and Sarawakians in forming Malaysia had been fulfilled.

Lim said Putrajaya must also acknowledge the historic Keningau Batu Sumpah as the heritage of all Sabahans and a reminder of the historic guarantees given to the people in the interior of Sabah about their rights on religion, land and native customs, in the establishment of Malaysia in 1963.

Lim added that given the significance of September 16, the day should not be overshadowed by the 'red shirt' rally in Kuala Lumpur, saying it would be disrespectful to all Malaysians.

He said there was a great difference between the Bersih 4 rally and the September 16 rally, as in the former, Malaysians of all backgrounds gathered to support good

governance and clean elections.

Lim said in contrast, the "red shirt" rally only appealed to "Malays who supported Najib".

"It will be doubly deplorable as the red-shirts rally is anti-democracy in opposing the democratic demands of Bersih 4 for good governance and clean, fair elections as well as being blatantly racist, as seen from the racially-charged pre-publicity campaign for the 'Kebangkitan Maruah Melayu' rally, inciting and provoking racial hatred, tension and conflict," Lim added.

He said Najib was doing a great disservice to the nation by endorsing his deputy's green light for the rally.

"Najib must prove that he is prime minister for all Malaysians and not just prime minister for an Umno faction in the country.

"Even more important, he must not allow the red-shirts rally to spoil or overshadow the 52nd Malaysia Day!" – September 11, 2015.

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