

Will Umno open up to non-Malays to project true Malaysian identity, asks DAP
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Will Umno become an inclusive party that opens its membership to all Malaysians or will it forever remain an exclusive party for the Malays, DAP asked today.

The party's parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang said he vowed to welcome such a landmark development if indeed Umno opens its doors to all Malaysians.

Responding to Umno minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak's statement that fielding more Malay candidates did not make DAP a multi-racial party, Lim said that people like Salleh must learn to be Malaysian and not be bogged down by "exclusive communal dynamos" which prevent them from transcending communal barriers to rise and become an inclusive Malaysian identity.

"Is Umno prepared to emulate DAP's example and reach out to all non-Malays and non-Muslims by welcoming them into Umno ranks?"

"Is Salleh a minister for Malays only or a minister for all Malaysians?"

"Are Umno ministers and leaders prepared, 66 years after founder Umno president Datuk Onn Jaffar suggested it, consider opening Umno doors to non-Malays to become an inclusive Malaysian political party?," the Gelang Patah MP asked in a statement today.

He also described the communications and multimedia minister as being Datuk Seri Najib Razak's new czar for information and multimedia communications, adding that DAP leaders have long been victims of Umno-Barisan Nasional cybertroopers who misused social media to disseminate lies and falsehoods about the party.

As such, he questioned if Salleh's team will investigate these Umno/BN cybertroopers responsible for spreading hatred and creating tensions in the country.

Lim also urged the prime minister and his Cabinet to give serious attention to a recent report titled: "Indonesian and Malaysian Support for The Islamic State", that a "genuinely" moderate Islamic agenda is the proper counter to thwart the Isis militant group.

The report, produced by the United States Agency for International Development, said Malaysia's counter-terrorism efforts had achieved some success but was curtailed by government support for conservative Islamic interests.

The report also noted that Putrajaya's right-wing bent, borne out of the need to arrest Umno's declining support, alienated an important Muslim population that could have helped in combating the militants' influence, Lim said.

"It said that Malaysia's "moderate Islamic image" projected internationally is not reflected in domestic policy that is increasingly sectarian and hostile, not only to minority religious rights but also to progressive Muslim views.

"What is Salleh's response, and that of Najib and the Cabinet, to this report which cast doubts about the political will of the Malaysian government to combat terrorism and extremism, whether religious or racial?," the federal lawmaker asked. – January 17, 2016.

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