

## **Kit Siang not in PH line-up so youth can step up instead**

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**By Nawar Firdaws**

**DAP veteran Lim Kit Siang says time for youth to step forward and assume responsibility for the future of the country on issues such as student loans.**

KUALA LUMPUR: DAP supremo Lim Kit Siang is no one's stooge, and the glaring absence of his name in the Pakatan Harapan (PH) leadership line-up is proof of it.

Speaking to an audience of around 200 in Bangsar here today, the Gelang Patah MP said he was merely paving the way for the youth to take up leadership responsibilities in the opposition coalition.

"One of the reasons I'm not in the line-up was because we want to see more youths (taking up leadership roles)," he said.

Since the line-up was announced last week, a score of Umno leaders have unexpectedly come out in support of Lim, whom they said should be named PH chairman instead of PPBM's Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

According to Umno Supreme Council member Ismail Sabri Yaakob, this was because DAP was the biggest party in the coalition.

Another Umno leader, Salleh Said Keruak, questioned why none of the highest posts in PH went to a DAP leader despite the party having the most number of MPs in the coalition.

PPBM president Muhyiddin Yassin however, on Thursday, explained that the line-up was decided based on proposals by each PH component party.

"We followed what was suggested by each party. We never rejected any of the proposals," he had told the press.

Meanwhile, Lim stressed how important it was for youths to step forward and assume responsibility for the future of the country, including on issues concerning their burden in paying for their loans with the National Higher Education Fund (PTPTN).

"Youths must be able to assume responsibility, whether on PTPTN or other things. They must take up the responsibility to make decisions," he told the mostly young crowd.

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