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Former DAP leaders: Reform party first

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Three former DAP leaders today said party secretary-general Lim Kit Siang was in no position to support Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's reform movements as the DAP itself needed reformation.

The DAP's former national vice-chairman Liew Ah Kim, former national treasurer Fung Ket Wing and former publicity secretary Wee Choo Keong said in a joint statement that the DAP did not practise real reforms, democracy, justice, freedom, transparency and good governance.

Liew and Fung resigned as DAP members after the party delegates' conference. Wee was sacked as publicity secretary and expelled from the party.

The three were earlier found guilty by the disciplinary committee of undermining the party leadership.

"If Kit Siang fears real reformation in the DAP, he should be honest enough not to cry for reformation elsewhere.

"Under Kit Siang's leadership, the DAP is only interested in exploiting such principles for external offensive against others but suppressed them within the DAP," they said.

They said despite their repeated calls to Kit Siang to publicly explain Anwar's reformation movement, he remained silent.

"The gathering at the National Mosque yesterday had created tension in the city, resulting in confusion," they said.

Meanwhile, Kit Siang came to the defence of Anwar, saying that his arrest last night was no surprise.

Kit Siang said the question was why the arrest of Anwar could not be put off by another 24 hours so that the 1998 Commonwealth Games could be completed without any blemish.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad should ensure a full semblance of fair play and justice in every step of the Government's handling of the arrest and prosecution of Anwar.

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