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#### DAP's Kuching liaison committee under suspension

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The DAP disciplinary committee has suspended the Kuching Parliamentary Liaison Committee for two years, effective today, for actions affecting the party's interest, image and credibility.

Committee chairman Chong Eng in a statement today said the liaison committee had invited a former party member to speak at a May 2 Labour Day celebration dinner at Tian Court, Kuching.

She said the former party member openly attacked the Central Executive Committee and Sarawak leadership in his speech.

"The liaison committee is entitled to appeal against the decision of the disciplinary committee to the Central Executive Committee under the party constitution," she said.

She said registered letters had been sent to all office bearers of the liaison committee informing them of the disciplinary committee's decision, adding that the suspension was on the recommendation of the Sarawak State Committee.

Contacted at his home in Kuching, chairman of the Kuching parliamentary liaison committee Dominic Ng Kim Ho described the suspension as a "big shock" and said he "feared for the future of the party".

Ng explained that the problem in the DAP in Kuching started some time last year when the Kuching branch was revived.

"Initially, there was DAP Kuching but its name was changed to DAP Padungan in the early 1990s. This had the blessings of both the State leadership and the CEC.

"Then last year, someone revived DAP Kuching. That's where the problem started," he explained.

To clarify the confusion, Ng said his committee decided to ask ex-DAP member Cheng Hui Hong to speak at a dinner gathering on May 2.

"Cheng was the best person to speak on this matter because he was the last chairman of DAP Kuching and the first chairman of DAP Padungan.

"If you analyse his speech text, there is hardly any criticism of the DAP leadership.

"If speaking the truth now results in a disciplinary action, then I really fear for the future of the DAP," he said.

Cheng, who had at one time held the position of State DAP vice chairman, recently quit the DAP and joined Keadilan.

In Penang, former Penang DAP youth leader Teh Beng Hai has decided to join the MCA claiming that he has seen the virtues of the Barisan Nasional.

"I have to admit that finally I have seen the light," he said when asked to confirm Press speculations that he would lead an exodus of 100 DAP members into the MCA, including those who were sacked by the DAP.

"I believe I can better serve the public by being part of the ruling party."

Teh said he and some former DAP members wanted to join MCA because they believed that the country would be better off under the leadership of Barisan Nasional and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The DAP members who intend to join the MCA will hold a Press conference later this week to "clear the air" and clarify their future political plans.

Teh, 39, who was the former chairman of the DAP Sri Tanjung Bungah branch will lead former members of the Penang DAP's Datuk Keramat, Kebun

Bunga and Tanjung Bungah branches.

They had resigned from the DAP, protesting against the party's disciplinary committee's decision to sack 12 Penang DAP leaders, including Teh.

The majority of the disgruntled 40 DAP members who resigned on June 15 from Sri Tanjung Bungah branch are also likely to follow Teh into the MCA.

State party leaders however claim that the June 15 resignations of 40 members from the Sri Tanjung Bungah branch were rigged.

Penang DAP secretary Chow Kon Yew lodged a police report today alleging that certain expelled members had forged the signatures of 39 Sri Tanjung Bungah branch members to claim that they had resigned from the party.

However, three of the 39 members - former branch secretary Leoh Seng Hooi and former committee members Teh Siew Aun and Goh Seng Chye - brushed aside Chow's claim.

Confirming that the signatures that appeared in the joint resignation letter were theirs, the trio said they had voluntarily resigned from the DAP.

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