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Gerakan-MCA breach widens over two Lims

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The Gerakan-MCA breach widened today with a senior Gerakan leader stating that the MCA's willingness to consider the applications of two former Gerakan State Assemblymen went against the Barisan Nasional spirit.

Gerakan secretary-general Chia Kwang Chye said today the MCA should not woo elected representatives of another BN party.

Chia was commenting on MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik's statement that MCA would consider the application of the two Assemblymen if they wanted to join the party.

The Transport Minister was also quoted as saying that BN practises a free flow of members within friendly parties and cited Gerakan leaders like Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu and Datuk Alex Lee as former MCA members.

Chia told the New Straits Times that prior to the resignation of the two Lims, his party's relationship with MCA had been cordial for the past 10 years with almost no crossover of party leaders from either side.

Meanwhile, Bernama quoted Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik as saying in Penang yesterday that whether MCA wanted to accept the two Lims or if the Assemblymen were prepared to join the MCA was no longer Gerakan's problem.

"I neither encourage nor prevent them, that is their right," he said.

The Primary Industries Minister also reminded Gerakan members to consider "the episode of the two Lims" as closed and not to discuss the matter anymore.

The two Lims contested the general election under the Gerakan ticket but quit the party three days later.

They cited dissatisfaction with the weak leadership of Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon as their reason for leaving.

However, they pledged allegiance to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the BN.

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