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Wrong for MCA to accept dissident duo, says Gerakan

PENANG, Fri. - Gerakan said today if MCA accepted the two former Gerakan assemblymen as its members, it would create "instability and destroy the Barisan Nasional spirit".

Its secretary-general Chia Kwang Chye said the MCA accepting them would certainly work against the tradition, normal practice and co-operation among component parties.

"The recent election indicated that the people want the BN to form a strong government," said Chia who is also Parliamentary Secretary to the Energy, Communications and Multimedia Ministry, and Bukit Bendera MP.

"As such we should not take the risk of creating any instability within the BN as the people's wishes must be respected," he said, commenting on reports that the MCA is prepared to accept the two Gerakan defectors should they apply to join the party.

Datuk Keramat State Assemblyman Lim Boo Chang and Bayan Lepas assemblyman State Assemblyman Lim Chien Aun quit the party three days after the recent general election.

They had, however, declared that despite quitting Gerakan, they would continue to support the BN under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We must heed the advice given by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi not to heat up the issue of the two assemblyman," said Chia.

He was speaking to reporters at the foothill of the Bala Thandayuthapani Temple on Jalan Kebun Bunga after leading a Gerakan delegation with state executive councillor Datuk Dr Rajapathy to the Thaipusam celebrations this morning.

The delegation included state executive councillor and state Gerakan liaison committee secretary Dr Teng Hock Nan and Jelutong Member of Parliament Lee Kah Choon.

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