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Gerakan: State MCA chief being inconsistent

PENANG, Sun. - State MCA chairman Wong Kam Hoong was today chided for being "inconsistent" in his stand and approach on the issue of the abstention of MCA backbenchers Lim Boo Chang and Tan Cheng Liang on a motion tabled by the Opposition in the State Assembly.

Teng Chang Yeow, political secretary to Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, today called on Wong to "be sincere and consistent" in matters related to Barisan Nasional leadership and procedure.

He said this in a statement released today in response to Wong's comment on Friday that he was unhappy that Koh had not called for a State BN meeting before submitting a report on the duo to BN national chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and deputy chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"It is clear that what Wong was trying to stress on was the collective leadership and responsibility of the BN by calling for the State BN to discuss the duo's behaviour before submitting a report to the top BN leadership," Teng said.

"On the other hand, Wong seems to condone and has asked for leniency for the behaviour of the duo who defied the collective responsibility of the BN when it came to a crucial vote over the Opposition motion in the Penang State Assembly.

"Moreover, Tan and Lim defied the directive of the State BN chairman during the pre-council meeting that all BN State Assemblymen must object to the two Opposition motions," he added.

"It would seem that Wong chose to use the principle of BN's collective leadership and responsibility only when it suited him, and to ignore it when it does not," he said.

"This is a clear lack of consistency in Wong's stand and approach," Teng said, adding that Koh and Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya as the BN chief whip, had to immediately submit a report as directed by Abdullah.

Teng said that their report presented the case in an objective manner without specifying any specific recommendations for discipline.

Teng said both Koh and Dr Hilmi submitted an objective report because they did not want to be seen as biased.

Koh, as State Gerakan chairman, also did not want the issue to be misinterpreted or twisted to be a Gerakan vs MCA quarrel, as it may damage the image and unity of BN in Penang, he added.