

DAP not punishing Guan Eng for Johor remarks... yet
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The DAP is yet to take any action against DAP national secretary general Lim Guan Eng for his remarks allegedly disparaging Johor in a private function in Singapore.

NONEDAP national chief Karpal Singh said Lim, who is Penang chief minister, wants to first confirm what was said.

"There is no action against Lim until we have proof or Lim has confirmed his words uttered during the function," he added.

At the closed door event attended by about 20 foreign journalists, Lim had reportedly denigrated Johor's public safety, saying that crime rate there was on the increase.

An audio recording of Lim uttering those sentiments was featured in TV3 Bulletin Utama last week, which had attracted the ire of the Johor sultan.

"Since the Johor sultan was offended, Lim's apology was in order," said Karpal.

Although Lim issued the apology quickly, he maintained his innocence, saying he was misquoted.

Lim is already suing national news agency Bernama for reporting that he uttered the comments during a recent working trip to Melbourne, Australia.

No double standards

Meanwhile, Karpal denied that the party had practised double standards when slapping a six month suspension on DAP's Kota Alam Shah assemblyperson M Manoharan recently for suggesting that the national flag should be changed.

manoharan first visit to selangor state assembly building 110509 04He said Manoharan (right), a well-known lawyer, had appealed against the decision, and his appeal would be considered by the DAP central committee which will meet in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

"To allay the fears of DAP members, especially the Indians, the party will take into account Manoharan's loyalty as a long standing member.

"He was responsible to some extent for the Indians voting for Pakatan in the 2008 general elections," he said.

"Although what Manoharan said was serious, he admitted his mistakes and withdrew his statement at the first opportunity, " the veteran lawyer added.

Karpal said what Manoharan had suggested was an error, and proposed that his suspension be put aside and he be reprimanded instead of suffering a suspension.

He added could vouch for Manoharan's character as has known the younger lawyer for many years when the latter interned with his legal office in Kuala Lumpur.

Manoharan had in the past worked as Karpal's legal assistant for 15 years.

He has sacrificed much for the party and was arrested and detained under the Internal Security Act. He and his family have undergone much difficulties," he said.

"We will take into account these sacrifices. Don't worry, the DAP is a reasonable party," he added.

Both Lim's and Manoharan's remarks had created a national uproar. Both leaders have been asked to apologise and withdraw their statements.

The DAP leadership's action against Manoharan has been seen as lopsided as it had meted out a lighter sentence on another member - Jelutong MP Jeff Ooi - for allegedly disparaging a colleague in public over a housing issue in Penang.

Ooi was merely reprimanded for his action, while the party is yet to even consider taking any action on Lim for insulting the Johor sultan and his subjects.

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