

Lim Boo Chang to quit PKR and rejoin Gerakan
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PKR Bukit Gelugor division chief Lim Boo Chang has decided to resign from all posts in the party and return to Gerakan, where he once belonged for 15 years, from 1984 to 1999.

Lim was a former Datuk Keramat assemblyperson for two terms (1995-2004).

He left Gerakan and joined MCA as its Penang assistant secretary and chief of the state legal and legal aid bureau, before joining PKR after the 2008 election.

NONEHe has sent his resignation letter to party president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Lim (right) said he was attracted by PKR's reform agenda but after three years in the party, he has lost confidence in it because it failed to fulfil its promises.

"Internal squabbling among members continues to take place, so with a heavy heart, I am resigning," he said.

He is also quitting as a Penang municipal councillor, to which he was appointed by PKR.

Lim said his late father, Lim Ee Heong, told him on his sick bed that he hoped he would return to Gerakan if it started to reform itself.

"He said it was more painful for him to leave Gerakan than the illness he was suffering from," Lim told a press conference today.

Lim said although Gerakan lost all its state and parliamentary seats in 2008 polls, the party has undergone a process of self-examination and has lately commenced a programme of transformation and to returning to the grassroots.

He added that he had observed the new trend set by the nation's "dynamic and visionary" Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to transform the country in all sectors.

"His 1Malaysia programme has demonstrated his strong determination to be close to the people and to discard racial politics, in order to unite the the people from all backgrounds and all walks of life," he stressed.

Lim said although opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim has harboured the intention to become the next premier and offered an alternative to Najib's leadership, the latter remains the "one and only viable" national leader.

Lim added he made the conclusion after much observation and evaluation through his personal experience of being an active member of PKR for the last three years.

'Unilateral wish' to join Gerakan

When asked if he had spoken to Gerakan about his intention, Lim said he would be speaking to the party today, but it is his "unilateral wish" to join it and lend a helping hand.

When asked if he had considered his reputation as Lim had earlier jumped from Gerakan to MCA, and later joined PKR, Lim said he had paused over the matter.

However, he said he was not the first to do as all the great leaders like former Penang CM Lim Chong Eu,

Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and former MCA president Michael Chen had also left their parties to either join or form new ones.

“The people’s interest comes first, a political party is just a platform, a vehicle, it is not a religion and it is only through a process of involvement that you get to know the party (and decide to leave),” he replied.

“I am willing to bear the brunt if people attack. I am not worried because my family members support me,” he added.

Lim said he had yet to talk with his colleagues in PKR but informally, many have expressed disgruntled feelings towards the party and its leadership.

He recalled the alleged ‘dirty tactics’ used in the Bayan Baru division election last year which demonstrated that the party was unable to handle its own internal election.

“I believe there’ll be more (who would resign) if they understand what I am saying.”

Meanwhile, Lim said he was resigning as a councillor as well because the municipal council had no more autonomy, with Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng having intervened in its decisions many times.

“The council has never experienced such intervention before, and this by a CAT (competency, accountability and transparency) government,” he added.

‘Is this CAT’

Lim said it was the controversial sPICE (subterranean Penang International Convention and Exhibition Centre) and its lopsided agreement in August favouring developers which sparked off his review and evaluation of the Pakatan Rakyat government.

azlanIn a recent full MPPP meeting, Lim broke ranks with his other colleagues and objected to the RM50 million budget for the development of sPICE.

“Until today, the council has not provided me with the sPICE agreement, and I am an MPPP councillor. Is this CAT?”

“They seem to say one thing and do another,” he added.

Lim said he was resigning from the council post as a protest to the Pakatan state government which is “autocratic and undemocratic”.

In a related issue, Penang Gerakan chief Dr Teng Hock Nan said he has yet to receive Lim’s application to join the party.

However, he said that the party was open to receive young or veteran leaders if they subscribe to Gerakan’s ideology and Barisan Nasional’s policies.

“But they must put in their application, which the central working committee at national level will consider before approving or rejecting it,” he told Malaysiakini.