

Sin Chew editor lodges police report, denies 'bribe' claims

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Sin Chew Daily executive editor-in-chief Kuik Cheng Kang today lodged a police report to refute an allegation made online that he received two houses as gifts from former MCA president Ong Ka Ting for "favourable reports" during the infamous MCA Team A and Team B fight in 2001.

After lodging the report at the Petaling Jaya district police headquarters, Kuik revealed that he owned two houses in Puchong, but stressed that both were terrace units that he bought with his own money.

"I never received a bungalow and a semi-detached house from Ong, which the defamatory article claimed was given through (IOI Group president) Lee Shin Cheng.

"This is totally untrue," he told local TV news channel NTV7.

Kuik was referring to an article titled Sin Chew Publishing Group - The Whore Story, published on the Malaysia Today website in 2009, which he claims is defamatory.

The article, written by an anonymous writer who calls himself 'I Love Malaysia', makes several accusations against Sin Chew Daily, its parent company Media Chinese International Ltd and a few senior executives of the newspaper.

Now translated into Chinese

The article was recently translated into Chinese and uploaded on a blog called 'The Scandal of Sin Chew Daily'.

However, the blog was later found to be deleted at around 6pm.

One of the accusations against Kuik is that he was given two houses - a bungalow and a semi-detached unit - in Puchong by Ong as a reward for their "collusion" in the 2001 MCA leadership fight.

It is alleged that the houses were "courtesy" of IOI Group's Lee Shin Cheng, who is the biggest housing developer in the Puchong district.

Kuik said Lee has already denied the accusation.

He believes the defamatory article is intended to attack him and Sin Chew Daily.

He said the article first appeared during the Ong Tee Keat-Dr Chua Soi Lek tussle for leadership of the MCA in 2009, but he chose not to take action then.

However, following recent developments after last Saturday's debate between the MCA and DAP leaders, many Facebook users have started sharing the article on their pages.

Kuik considers this a serious matter and therefore felt it was necessary to lodge a police report.

"I have been with the media industry for more than 20 years and I have always been dedicated to my job. I have never harmed anybody.

"But these people attacked the senior executives of Sin Chew Daily because they don't like the paper, they want to damage Sin Chew's reputation. This is their ultimate goal."

Multimedia commission urged to nail culprits

Kuik said he felt sad about the latest development and that he would also lodge a report with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) in the hope that it could nail the culprits to prove his innocence.

He also warned Facebook users not to share the defamatory article and that he reserved his right to take legal action against those who did so.

"This article is a serious defamation against me and my family."

Sin Chew Daily, which is the largest circulation Chinese daily in Malaysia, has come under attack from netizens for its "biased" coverage of last Saturday's debate between MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek and DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng.

A number of Facebook users have posted the article about Kuik receiving the 'gifts from Ka Ting' on their Facebook pages as an attack on the daily.

Earlier, Kuik refused to reveal any information about his police report when Malaysiakini met him at the police station.

Asked what the police report that he made was about, he only said, "no comment".

A colleague of his later informed the members of the media who were waiting at the police station that Kuik would only give interviews to Sin Chew Daily and NTV7.

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