

Penang DAP rally for their embattled leaders

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A group of 30 DAP supporters held a brief rally in support of their leaders who had been attacked and criticised recently by various quarters, at the party's Penang headquarters today.

The party's Tanjong division Youth vice chief Sukumar Subramaniam acted as spokesperson for the group which held the rally for 15 minutes, in front of Wisma DAP, the new HQ on Rangoon Road ,

penang dap member rally 010412 kirushnanHe was accompanied by the party's state Indian Culture bureau chief AR Kirushan (left) and Penang municipal councillor Harbinder Singh.

Accompanied by members from other ethnic communities, the group held a banner, newspaper cuttings to support their leaders but refrained from criticising anyone.

They shouted pro-DAP slogans including "Putrajaya, here we come!".

In a statement issued at the event, Sukumar said that the group had full confidence in DAP national chief Karpal Singh, secretary general and Penang chief minister Lim Guan Eng and state chairman and Tanjong MP Chow Kon Yeow.

"We fully support Karpal who has sacrificed his entire life for the party and nation and will lead the whole party into the general election to capture Putrajaya," said Sukumar.

"We, DAP members will have our energy and mind focussed to win the coming GE. Other negative distractions will not disunite us," he added.

"Our enemy is BN and only BN. We will fight until we win Putrajaya. The marching towards Putrajaya has started here and our DAP leaders will lead the way," he stressed.

Outsiders told to stay out

The rally comes following another protest in front of Komtar yesterday by a group of about 50 members who claimed they represented 32 NGOs, and who wanted "outsiders" not to interfere in the affairs of the Penang Hindu Endowment Board.

Last month, Karpal had said the DAP wanted four political appointees of Ramasamy to vacate their posts in the PHEB and Appeals Board as the organisations should be led by the grassroots.

Karpal and Ramasamy has been involved in an on-going spat over the latter's alleged announcement of candidates for the general election in a Tamil language newspaper.

Ramasamy was recently accused of organising a protest at the party's state convention in Prai, but the disciplinary board cleared him of any wrongdoing.

Where is Ramasamy?

Meanwhile, Sukuamar was asked why the name of state deputy chief and Chief Minister II, P Ramasamy, was not mentioned in the statement.

penang dap member rally 010412 sukumar subramaniamSukumar (left) clarified that the group supports all leaders, including the latter, adding that the group has also met with those Ramasamy's supporters to

settle matters.

As according to the chief minister, the matter is already resolved and the members are united, and any problems will be dealt with internally, he added.

"We cannot stop others from protecting or claiming to support anyone, but we are here to support our leaders after all the negative criticisms and attacks," said Sukumar.

Another party member, Deena Dayalan said the group gathered here today to respond to criticisms against their leaders, not against those who supported Ramasamy, who is also Batu Kawan MP.

Deena said if the group were to mention Ramasamy in its banner, it would have to also speak about other leaders in DAP.

When told that Ramasamy was also the party's deputy secretary general, Deena said it was better not to link today's event with the former.

"I do not know why the media want to focus so much on Ramasamy," he told reporters.

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