

Umno vs MCA - Wangsa Maju not 'stolen' but 'returned'

MalaysiaKini.com

April 11, 2013

By Abdul Rahim Sabri

Umno secretary-general Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor has announced that MCA had "returned" its Wangsa Maju parliamentary seat to Umno for the upcoming election.

He stressed that Umno did not "steal" any seat from its partners because BN adopts a consensus approach to solve seat negotiations.

"MCA has actually returned the seat to us (Umno). Before this when I was the Umno state liaison chair, the seat was specifically for Indians," he said.

"I don't know how the seat was given to MCA to contest. I know when I was liaison chairman, there were 100,000 Indians (in the constituency)," he added.

"So I suggested this seat be given to Indians. But we loaned it to MCA. Now, MCA has returned it after studying the situation. They (MCA) are rational," Tengku Adnan told reporters after handing out Karisma aids sponsored by Kuala Lumpur Welfare Department in Putrajaya today.

He was responding to the anger of MCA grassroots members regarding several seats that now "loaned" to Umno and other component parties for the coming election.

Seats that have been disputed include Gelang Patah, Tebrau, Wangsa Maju, and Kuantan.

BN's Wangsa Maju chairperson Shafie Abdullah was reported as criticising the actions of several MCA leaders from Wangsa Maju who had tried to "threaten" Wangsa Maju BN regarding the seat.

Wangsa Maju MCA organising secretary Lim Choon Hong (left) is reported to have said that MCA would withdraw from all BN activities during the campaign period if MCA branch chief Yew Teong Look is not fielded.

Shafie reportedly responded that that the statement was "insulting BN".

Tengku Adnan, who is also BN secretary, said the coalition was a multi-cultural structure, different from the opposition.

"One wants to go to the moon, one wants to get on a rocket, and one more I don't know what hole it's getting into," he quipped.

He also said that everyone would need to wait for an announcement to determine whether Umno would be contesting the Gelang Patah and Kuantan parliamentary seats, which were previously held by the MCA.

Asked to confirm if allocations of the disputed seats have been resolved, Tengku Adnan merely said that the party would follow "what has been decided."

Umno president Najib Abdul Razak would submit the list of candidates selected to the respective state Umno liaison chiefs to announce the candidates in their respective states, he added.

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