

## **ROS holds DAP inquiry two days before nomination**

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**By Susan Loone**

The Registrar of Societies (ROS) has asked the DAP to attend an inquiry over complaints pertaining to a technical glitch during its party's central executive committee (CEC) elections, which was held during its triennial congress in Penang in December, last year.

DAP national chairperson Karpal Singh said the letter sent by ROS was dated April 9, but was sent ten days after parliament was dissolved.

In the letter, the ROS stated it required two witnesses from the party to attend the inquiry on April 18.

Karpal said the letter requested the DAP's former election director Pooi Weng Keong (left) and election strategist Ong Kian Ming to attend the inquiry, which is to be held in the presence of investigating officer Inspector Mohd Nawawi Mat, at 10am at the ROS office in Kuala Lumpur.

He said the party was also asked to provide nine documents related to the CEC elections, including notices sent out to its delegates last year.

"We intend to supply the ROS with all the related documents in compliance with the law.

"We maintain that it was a technical glitch, and that there was no fraud nor misrepresentation as alleged by certain quarters.

"The investigation will take some time and we hope whatever decision the ROS makes will be based on evidence," said Karpal at a press conference in Penang.

'No disruptive statements'

On concerns that the DAP may be deregistered before nomination day on Apr 20, Karpal said it was "impossible" as the ROS needed time to consider all the evidence before making a decision.

"If it happens (decision to deregister the DAP), it would be blatantly weird," he quipped.

However, Karpal urged all parties, including caretaker Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak and outspoken critic of DAP Tunku Abdul Aziz Ibrahim to refrain from making statements to disrupt the investigation process.

"Najib must not make exercise any undue influence over the ROS, it should be free to make its decision on the matter," said Karpal.

Tunku Abdul Aziz, a former DAP senator who has left the DAP, has urged his former party to be suspended for the internal poll irregularities.

Several rallies have also been held by disgruntled DAP members to ask for re-election but Karpal has maintained that the party's decision on the matter is final.

The new results saw DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng's political secretary Zairil Khir Johari (below) - who earlier failed to make the mark - being propelled into the top 20 CEC place.

"There was a technical glitch and Tunku Aziz, who is braying for the blood of the DAP, has asked that it be deregistered, this is a very serious allegation.

"No doubt the ROS has power to do so, but it must decide after considering all evidence it has and what comes out of the inquiry during the investigation process," he said.

Until then, Karpal stressed, the DAP should be allowed to contest the coming general election, using its party symbol.

Karpal said the party was not asking for a postponement of the inquiry, merely appealing for the decision to be made after the general election on May 5.

It also is also asking that the decision be based on "solid evidence", and that all parties, including the DAP, be given the opportunity to make its case before the ROS.

