

Why slam party now, DAP's Zulkifli asked

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By Kow Kwan Yee

The intention of DAP's veteran member Zulkifli Mohd Noor to liken the Malays in DAP as 'a 50 sen race' a few days before the party re-election has come under question.

"Why now?" asked DAP organising secretary Anthony Loke.

He questioned why the former DAP vice-chairperson lashed out the party at this critical moment.

NONE "I'm disappointed to see a long-time member making such a comment at this time," he told a press conference at DAP headquarters in Kuala Lumpur today.

The Star had quoted Zulkifli (right) as saying the Malays in DAP were just 'a 50 sen race' and without them, it will not be able to reach one million (members).

Zulkifli also reportedly called Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng a dictator and accused him of having a hidden agenda to strengthen his standing and that of his father, Lim Kit Siang, in the party.

Zulkifli, who had joined the party 26 years ago, was a Penang municipal councillor and is now on the state DAP committee.

He hoped the national delegates, who were mainly Chinese, would vote for Malay CEC candidates.

Zulkifli is one of 62 DAP candidates who are competing for 20 spots in the CEC elections that will be held on Sept 29. There are seven other Malays contesting. All of them had been defeated in elections during last year's national congress.

After the controversial technical glitch was revealed, it was announced that Bukit Bendera MP Zairil Khir Johari had been elected into the 20-member CEC list.

NONE Puchong MP Gobind Singh (left), who was at the same press conference today, said Zulkifli's allegation had no basis at all as the contribution by all members are valued.

"It is the same for all CEC candidates, if you want to get elected, you have to

convince the delegates," he said.

Gobind added that DAP is a merit-based political party, which was not what Zulkifli had claimed as becoming racist.

Re-election not affected

As for the injunction sought by former Ladang Paroi DAP branch deputy chairperson A David Dass recently, Gobind said this would not affect the progress of the party to hold re-elections at One World Hotel on Sept 29.

He said DAP chairperson Karpal Singh had later filed an application to strike out the injunction, and the Kuala Lumpur High Court had fixed Sept 25 to make its decision.

Earlier, Dass had sought an injunction to bar the party from holding re-elections.

In his application, Dass named the party and its secretary-general Lim Guan Eng as respondents on the grounds that the elections would be in breach of the party constitution.

NONEMeanwhile, Serdang MP Ong Kian Ming (right) will be the returning officer for the Sept 29 re-elections.

In the same press conference, Ong said that an international accounting firm - PKF Accountants and Business Adviser - had been assigned to monitor the whole re-election process.

In order to ensure a flawless vote counting process, Ong said he would conduct testing together with the company's experts, including testing of the spreadsheets which would be used for the re-elections, as well as the use of both manual and computer tabulation processes.

MCA: DAP's multiracial identity a deception

On the withdrawal of CEC candidacies, he said the names of those who had withdrawn their candidacies before or during the national congress last year would be marked as "withdrew".

But for those who had just decided to quit from contesting recently, Ong said, for example like Komtar MP Ng Wei Aik, his name would remain the same with no marking on it.

Asked what if those had withdrawn is elected eventually, Ong said in principle, they had to accept the CEC post but he commented that this was unlikely to happen.

NONE“This time around, indelible ink will be used during the re-election, but the ink lasts for only few hours as the voting process is only two hours,” he added.

Meanwhile, in a statement today, Penang MCA secretary Lau Chiek Tuan (left) said that Zulkifli’s statement confirmed MCA’s criticism of the party, that its multiracial identity is no more than a “facade”.

“DAP’s claims to be a multiracial political party while shouting the ‘Malaysian Malaysia’ slogan is plain deception.

“Malay DAP members completely hold no influence in the party at all. They are easily dispensable and their existence is merely for the Lim clan to whitewash their image as a multiracial political party...,” Lau said.

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