

Kula to quit Perak DAP post?
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Factionalism in Perak DAP is set to hit a crescendo as it was strongly rumoured the the state deputy chairperson M Kulasegaran would be leaving his state post.

In a short message on micro-blogging website Twitter, Kulasegaran - also the Ipoh Barat MP and party national vice-chairman - said that he will announce "what is lacking" in the Perak leadership today.

"Just finished DAP leadership meeting in Ipoh. Sad day as I will announce what is lacking in Perak leadership tomorrow (Saturday) and why I have to leave for good," he tweeted late last night.

He has dropped strong hints about leaving his state position, but maintained that he is still a party man.

"I have no intention to leave DAP. But contemplating to quit state leadership. Enough is enough. At tomorrow's press conference, I will explain all," he later tweeted at 12.45am, hours after his first posting.

However, a source said that Kulasegaran (*right*) had apparently changed his mind about leaving when several national leaders did some serious cajoling.

Still, it is quite likely that he will be holding a press conference at 10.30am today at the Perak DAP headquarters to explain the entire fiasco yesterday which went on until past midnight.

It is understood that various national party leaders had scrambled to patch things up between the two factions until very late into the night.

Sources have told *Malaysiakini* that party supremo Lim Kit Siang, vice-president Tan Kok Wai and national organising secretary Teresa Kok quickly travelled to Ipoh yesterday for high-level talks to mediate things.

However, it was said that the first round of talks had fallen through, causing Kulasegaran to take to Twitter. It was then that the national leaders upped the ante at placating him.

Perak DAP split apart

It has been an open secret in Ipoh that Perak DAP has been split into two strong factions, one of them helmed by state chief Ngeh Koo Ham and his cousin Nga Kor Ming, state party secretary.

And on the other hand, Kulasegaran has banded with his own group consisting of Thomas Su (organising secretary), Leong Mee Meng (treasurer) and a few others.

The dissatisfaction with the Perak DAP leadership, now held by the Ngeh-Nga cousins, have long been brewing in the silver state where it is said that they are highly intolerant of party dissent.



In a feud that dates back to even before the March 2008 general elections, various sources have complained that the cousins have been making unilateral decisions without consulting others.

In fact, popular Batu Gajah MP Fong Po Kuan (*left*) was one of the earliest to throw in the towel from her state committee position in 2006 after becoming highly disillusioned with the cousins, once again causing a near scare when she tearfully announced that she will not be running in her parliamentary seat where she is almost a folk heroine.

Late last year, Leong - also the Jalong assemblyperson - had also broke down in tears during a press conference when she claimed that she was being marginalised by the powerful Ngeh-Nga faction.

But what would have been the tipping point for Kulasegaran's camp now could be the issue of party branches that may very well be the deciding factor for the state party elections scheduled for the end of this year.

Sources have said that the Ipoh Barat MP has been extremely unhappy when branches linked to him have been disqualified from voting, while the Ngeh-Nga faction are looking at reviving dead branches in areas where they wield influence.

If the last-minute negotiations had broken down, it was a very big possibility that nearly half of the state committee, which is aligned to Kulasegaran, will be hanging up their gloves today as well.

In the meantime, both Kok and Kulasegaran have declined to comment while the other Perak DAP leaders could not be contacted.

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