

Kit Siang: Don't repeat mistake of 1995
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Do not allow party disunity among DAP members for short-term gains to be the stumbling block in Pakatan's visionary objective in recapturing Perak state and taking over Putrajaya in the next general election, warned party supremo Lim Kit Siang.

The veteran leader has told Perak party leaders and members not to repeat the same mistake made in the 1995 general election when, because of party disunity, Perak DAP suffered its worst electoral setback when the party won only one state assembly seat.



Whereas in the 1990 general election, the united party members had won four parliamentary and 13 assembly seats, he pointed out.

In a media statement, the Ipoh Barat MP went on to cite a quotation by George Santayana, "Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it".

He urged party members to stop bickering over irrelevant petty issues and concentrate on the long-term vision of Pakatan to take control of Putrajaya.

"DAP Perak leaders, branches and members should fully embrace the unity formula in Perak so that DAP Perak can play its full role in ensuring that DAP and Pakatan Rakyat 'write history' in the state in the next general election," he urged.

"The party members must live up to the high expectation and aspiration of all Perakians and Malaysians who want to see a new beginning for Malaysia after more than half-a-century of misrule (by BN)" he reasoned.

He warned party members not to fall into the political trap that BN is setting to ensure that Pakatan does not achieve its objective of reaching Putrajaya in the next general elections.

He urged all state members and supporters to rally behind party state chief Ngeh Koo Ham and his deputy M Kulasegaran on a unity ticket to restore the Pakatan government in Perak and help the coalition to take over Putrajaya in the coming general election.

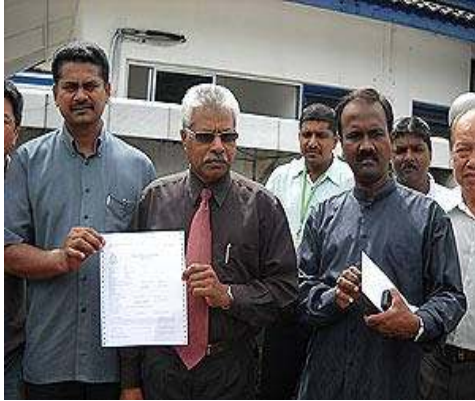
He explained that Ngeh and Kulasegaran have put their personal differences aside to further strengthen the unity of the party in these challenging political times.

'Decisive action needed'

On Sunday morning, the veteran peace maker had sent an SMS to both the party state leaders:

"Let's face it. What happened last 36 hrs have caused enormous damage to DAP leaders involved, DAP, PR - only question is who suffer more damage - which is utter madness. Its massive 'lose-lose' formula without any redeeming 'win-win' element at all. Public opprobrium all round. Nobody can hold head high. Decisive action needed."

Ngeh and Kula have since issued apologies for the Perak DAP leadership crisis and have pledged to resolve party differences internally.



Meanwhile, Buntong assemblyperson A Sivasubramaniam and his Pertama branch chief Tang Yaw Hooi lodged separate police reports at the Ipoh police headquarters here today.

They were also accompanied by party state vice-chief A Sivanesan and party state assistant secretary V Sivakumar.

In their police reports, both the complainants urged the police to take action against a group of Indians and Malays who had claimed to be Buntong DAP branch members in yesterday's incident when they mounted a demonstration over the feud between Kulasegaran and both Ngeh and his cousin Nga Kor Ming.

They had urged Kulasegaran to resign from DAP and 300 Buntong members will follow suit.

After the police reports were made, Sivanesan told a media conference that yesterday Kulasegaran had telephoned him from Nepal and had denied urging the so-called DAP supporters from Buntong to demonstrate on his behalf.

Both Sivanesan and Sivasubramaniam had denied that the demonstrators were from DAP Buntong and claimed that BN was behind this incident to break up the state party.



A similar stand was also taken in a media statement by state Dapsy chief Wong Kah Woh that the demonstrators were neither Buntong DAP members nor Pakatan youth members.

Meanwhile, Kulasegaran, in a media statement today, urged the DAP leadership to hasten implementing the unity formula to unite all state party members.

"In fact for a better Malaysia, the unity formula must be worked out soon," he stressed.

He reiterated that despite the problems and pains that he had to endure for quite some time before the crisis erupted into the open, he is still committed to DAP's cause to bring a better Malaysia for all Malaysians.

He called on his supporters not to demonstrate against both Ngeh and Nga and DAP which will aggravate the matter further.

