

Kula to go along with 'gag' order
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Perak DAP deputy chief M Kulasegaran will go along the gag order imposed by DAP if reluctantly and with reservations.

A media conference he hosted in Ipoh yesterday that promised fireworks turned out to be a very tame affair, with Kulasegaran shying away and refusing to answer any sensitive questions regarding the party tussle.

He said that he will abide by the gag order by the party and wait for a meeting, expected to be called soon, to iron out the problems between the party leaders.

Kulasegaran (*right*) said that he was in the dark about the proposed unity plan by Lim Kit Siang to unite the two split factions and will wait for it to be revealed before commenting further.

The so-called bridging of the two factions seemed very hollow as both Ngeh and Nga were not present at the media conference.

Kulasegaran's claim of creating three 'Siva's in the state political arena saw only the presence of party state vice chief A Sivanesan, while party assistant secretary V Sivakumar and state assistant publicity secretary A Sivasubramaniam was missing during the media conference.



The absence of these DAP state leaders indicates all is not yet well in the party.

Open discussion

However Kulasegaran let his guard down a little, after the press conference was over.

He said open discussions of problems within political parties should be allowed to ensure healthy political growth and would enrich the democratic process of the party in the eyes of voters.

He felt this would lead to amicable and speedy solutions that will strengthen the parties further.

"Trying to stifle such healthy debate can lead to resentment among party members which will ultimately destroy the party, and should not be stifled."

He took a leaf from the American style democracy whereby all issues and problems are discussed openly by both Republicans and Democrats.

"We are elected by voters who should have access to the political happenings in the party (so as to be able to) assess the political worthiness of their representatives in serving the people," he reasoned.



Kula joins Ngeh in statement

As evidence that Kulasegaran is falling in line for the time being, he was a signatory to a joint press statement with Ngeh (*below*), that was issued later yesterday.

The statement read, "Both of us had discussions with DAP Secretary-General Lim Guan Eng today and reaffirm our stand that we shall not speak to the press, but use internal party channels, to resolve any issues pertaining to Perak DAP.

"Whilst we do not deny that there are matters in DAP Perak that require attention, we believe that these matters can be resolved internally and with consultation from national leaders.

"We thereby urge all party leaders to refrain from issuing statements or making comments of Perak DAP matters which shall be resolved internally.

The statement said this was to prevent BN-controlled media from capitalising on them to provoke a split in DAP Perak, that shall only benefit the BN.

"Any statements issued by any party leader or member or even purportedly by either one of us do not represent our joint and common stand that party matters be resolved internally and not be openly discussed in the press," it concluded.

Trigger point

Apparently, Kulasegaran's earlier public call for each elected representative to hold either a state seat or a parliamentary seat to serve the voters effectively, did not go well with Ngeh and his cousin Nga Kor Ming, who each hold two political seats.

Ngeh held the Beruas parliamentary seat and Sitiawan state seat while Nga (*right*) is the Taiping MP and Pantai Remis assemblyperson.

This was the sore point that triggered the feud between him and the cousins.

Matters came to a head when a recent party meeting ended up in a verbal spat that had Kulasegaran threatening to quit his post as state deputy chief.

However, party supremo Lim Kit Siang and secretary-general Lim Guan Eng intervened and cooled both sides down for a temporary ceasefire.



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