

**Nation mired in political uncertainties**  
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COMMENT There is only one word to describe the current local political situation: chaotic. The PKR is in turmoil, the DAP faces some internal infightings while Gerakan is submerged in a drastic crisis of confidence in its leadership.

The PKR chaos is mainly caused by the electoral fight for party positions and power. Almost everyone in the party is laying claims to a party position, with an eye on a powerful position if the party were to win big in the next general election.

The DAP trouble is also a struggle for positions and power, particularly in Perak, where state DAP chairman Ngeh Koo Ham and secretary Nga Kor Ming are been engaged in a factional fight with state deputy chairman M. Kulasegaran.

As for Gerakan, an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) has been scheduled for Sunday 10 October to vote on a no-confidence motion against Penang party chairman Dr Teng Hock Nan. Party president Dr Koh Tsu Koon is caught in a hubbub of controversy when he announced that he would rather attend the opening of the MCA general assembly on that day, instead of the crucial party EGM in Penang.

Koh's announcement upset party adviser and ex-president Dr Lim Keng Yaik so much that he resigned as the adviser. Lim lambasted Koh for having no guts to face problems and conflicts in the party, saying that Koh only wants to please everyone.

Earlier in the year, Lim had shocked the party and the public by declaring that Gerakan has lost Penang forever.

The Gerakan crisis is different from that of the PKR and DAP as it involves the party members' confidence in Koh, who is seen as a weak leader, lacking in potency and influence. It is fundamentally a crisis of confidence in the party leadership.

The electoral dispute in the PKR and the internal controversy in the DAP involve only some minor power struggles among the grassroots warlords

There is no question about the power and authority of PKR adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang.

In Gerakan, however, Lim is apparently powerless as he is no longer the party president, while Koh is a weakling lacking in vitality and political power and strength.

Lim has suggested that Koh's biggest weakness is that he is a man-pleaser, being afraid to offend people, refusing to face the reality of political problems, and trying to be nice guy.

After the March 2008 general election, Gerakan found itself diminished into an insignificant "mosquito party" with no bargaining power in the BN coalition, having lost its crown jewel Penang to the DAP and its Pakatan Rakyat partners.

The DAP and PKR, on the other hand, have emerged as a new political powerhouse under the alternative Pakatan Rakyat coalition.

Over the past two years, the battle between the BN and the Pakatan Rakyat has been intensified. Although both coalitions have pledged to carry out massive socio-economic and

political reforms, so far neither has been able to make much headway. About the only thing the disappointed people see nowadays are the fierce infightings within the component parties of both coalitions.

Malaysia has come to a critical moment of its political history, but there are still many uncertainties over the direction the country is heading.

In the face of the uncertain situation, the people cannot help but sigh in frustration and worries. Nevertheless, they are still full of expectations, hoping that the political parties will behave themselves and strive to create a truly high-quality democratic culture in the country. - *mysin Chew.com*

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