

**PKR ready to welcome Penang Gerakan members**  
**Malaysianmirror.com**  
**12 October 2010**

PKR is willing to open its doors to Penang Gerakan members wishing to join after an internal flare-up sparked by dissatisfaction over the BN's unwillingness to reform and Gerakan's own inability to develop a new political agenda to change Malaysia for the better.

"We will welcome them to our party, but of course, they will have to go through the usual recruiting processes and screening," PKR strategic director Tian Chua told *Malaysia Chronicle*.

Since the October 10 extraordinary general meeting that saw 82 percent of Gerakan's 393 Penang delegates attending a no-confidence vote of against state chief Teng Hock Nan, there has been red-hot talk of branches closing down and teams of Gerakan members leaving to join PKR en-bloc.

The no-confidence vote was defeated by 145 to 174, but narrow shave and the large attendance only confirmed what many pundits had been warning - that the unhappiness in the party is widespread and fast-growing.

Penang no longer in Tsu Koon's map

[http://t1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQ3jHNnhvmhHe2P6EVL8ixy\\_vV\\_-WDSzlkWT6h9hzBRKGAYZv0&t=1&usg=\\_\\_YFIntEvMv96rOxphsrYYPcmlmOA=](http://t1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQ3jHNnhvmhHe2P6EVL8ixy_vV_-WDSzlkWT6h9hzBRKGAYZv0&t=1&usg=__YFIntEvMv96rOxphsrYYPcmlmOA=)

Penang is Gerakan's long-held bastion and in a move that shows how far removed from the reality on the Gerakan ground that president Koh Tsu Koon has become, he initially did not even want to attend the EGM.

It was only after a public tongue-lashing from former president and adviser Lim Keng Yaik that Tsu Koon relented. But by then, it was already too late. The damage was done and Keng Yaik's warning that Gerakan would "go to the dogs" if Tsu Koon did not change his style of leadership has already gone round the nation.

"That was the last straw. It is not unfair for us to say Tsu Koon has become completely detached from Gerakan. He is like on his own - he answers only to Prime Minister Najib Razak and his job is that of a federal Cabinet minister first and foremost. The Gerakan presidency is only secondary. There is no life, no direction in Gerakan and also no reason for us to stay," a Gerakan veteran told *Malaysia Chronicle*.

Still non-reactive

His sentiments were shared by other branch leaders, who also said they were unhappy with Teng's leadership. A close ally of Tsu Koon's, Teng has also been accused of the same lackadaisical leadership style.

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/images/uploads/mugshots/teng-hock-nan-sept10.jpg>"We intend to leave en bloc and start a new PKR branch. Members will be meeting within this week," *Malaysiakini* reported Kebun Sireh branch chief Sim Chooi Kung as saying. The branch has about 250 members.

"After we have met, we will make an official announcement," said another branch chief, Bukit Tengah's Lee Nam Sim. The Bukit Tengah meeting will take place in a day or two.

Meanwhile, despite the recent narrow escape, Teng continued to adopt his non-reactive approach.

"This is life, we have to accept it," Teng said.

Copyright © 2009 [www.malaysiamirror.com](http://www.malaysiamirror.com)

Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/blogbuzzdetail/182-blogbuzz/49875-pkr-ready-to-welcome-penang-gerakan-members>