

**Ngeh-Mah debate row continues**  
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IPOH - Perak DAP chief Ngeh Koo Kam said the state BN executive council member Mah Hong Soon was not authorized to represent BN Perak Government in a debate set between the two.

Ngeh said it was confirmed by the Perak Menteri Besar, Zambry Bin Abdul Kadir, that Mah did not get endorsement from the BN state government which was a pre-condition to the DAP stalwart's acceptance of the debate challenge.

According to Ngeh, the Menteri Besar did not appear to be concern with the debate and it implied that Mah does not represent or have the authority to represent the BN state government and does not have any say over the state policies.

However, it is learnt that Zambry has said that the debate can proceed because "this is their personal affair", according to *The Malaysian Insider*.

He said in a statement that Mah should offer an apology to the public for giving the impression that he can represent the BN Perak Government to debate with Pakatan Rakyat (PR).

Both Ngeh and Mah have accused each other of finding an excuse to avoid the debate.

"He (Mah) is now saying that the venue, time and moderator appointed for the 1st November debate are not suitable," Ngeh said, reminding Mah that he had stated he was ready to debate at anytime and anywhere.

Meanwhile, Mah said the state DAP chief should not "weasel his way out of the debate" and he was still waiting for a response from the latter, *The Star* reported.

"They (the DAP) always accuse the MCA of not having a say in government policies," Mah was quoted as saying in the daily.

Ngeh had set the debate on Nov 1 (8pm) at the Kwantung Association Hall at Taiping.

Mah had challenged Ngeh to an open debate on the policies of the two administrations earlier in July at a Chinese association dinner.

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