

## Narcissism In DAP Penang Above Rakyat's Welfare

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While DAP Penang and DAP, the party as a whole inches towards splitville given the latest face-off between DAP Chairman Karpal Singh against his party's Deputy Secretary General who is also the Rocket's Deputy Chief Minister II S. Ramasamy on naming DAP candidates and seat allocation for the next general elections, the former's justification that "godfathers are necessary" indicate fixtures of lack of consultation and trust among DAP office bearers.

Karpal gloats in self-praise by ridiculously likening himself to the Italian-American mafia made famous by Mario Puzzo's novel *The Godfather* which became an Oscar winning film. Taking credit that "present leaders in DAP came to be where they are today due to the godfathers" (aka long-timers who never retire) as reported in *Malaysiakini* (6 Dec 11), it is such narcissism that renders DAP slow in being infused with new crop of leaders and carrying out internal reforms resulting with party rifts boiling over to the public sphere.

Furthermore, with too much time spent on internal-politicking, I urge DAP elected representatives to concentrate on prioritizing the rakyat's welfare before themselves by making it a point to fulfill their election commitments considering the numerous failed projects in the state, most notably, the recent announcement by Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng to demolish the poorly designed "kancil carpark" which is a wastage of public funds or that the Auditor General Report 2010 had highlighted no new low-cost housing were constructed since 2008, and that existing low-cost units suffer from poor or non-maintenance.

### Wither democracy without party elections in Pakatan Rakyat parties

Although DAP preaches about democracy, it is pitiable that among DAP big shots, democracy is found wanting. Party elections are not genuinely practised at the central level. DAP office bearers are saved from contesting for party posts, and public figures like former United Nations repertoire Tunku Abdul Aziz was rocketed (pardon the pun) straight to the echelon as Vice Chairman and Zairil Khir Johari appointed as political secretary to the CM.

Their unelected chieftains continue to helm DAP affairs for decades. For example, septuagenarians DAP advisor Lim Kit Siang remains unmoved since 1969 and Karpal will not retire as chairman. Meanwhile Lim Guan Eng lingers as secretary general.

### Other Pakatan Rakyat power holders cling on to power

It is not only in DAP where we see stalwarts refusing to give up authority.

PAS' tok guru octogenarian Nik Aziz is the unelected spiritual advisor of the Islamist party. Meanwhile Anwar Ibrahim whom his spouse cum PKR President Wan Azizah describes as "heaven sent" is unshakable from his exalted pedestal as ketua umum forever.

These examples serve to show that DAP, PAS and PKR leaders crave power. Being two-faced, they can cry out loud about upholding democracy in Malaysia but paradoxically, have no intentions of practising democracy within their parties.

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