

**Don't Deploy The Usual Gag Order**  
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**by Lau Chiek Tuan**

DAP chairman Karpal Singh's order that the Rocket's Deputy Secretary General Dr P Ramasamy quit his Deputy Chief Minister's post for defying the DAP 3-men committee not to talk to the media about their spat (when Ramasamy highlighted that critics within DAP were plotting against him for not responding to requests for favours from grassroots leaders) does suggest that there is a Pandora's Box within DAP waiting to explode.

Given the allegations by Ramasamy of suspected cronyism, why does Karpal plus the 3-men panel consisting of Secretary General Lim Guan Eng, his father Adviser Lim Kit Siang and life adviser Dr Chen Man Him demand a gag order? Is there something suspicious going on which top DAP honchos are aware of and would prefer that the public be kept in the dark about?

Internal & external probes must be conducted immediately

If the allegations are true, this involves taxpayers' funds. It is no longer merely an internal power issue but warrants in-depth investigation. The DAP 3-men panel and disciplinary board must commence an internal probe to either take action should evidence be found supporting such allegations.

However, given that personal biasness may be in place considering that it was DAP chieftain Karpal who is asserting pressure on Ramasamy (his one time-protégé) to quit his DCM II post, then DAP should also lodge reports with the police and MACC to ensure neutrality when a third party is investigating.

Competency, Accountability & Transparency

DAP cannot say that they will solve it within the party ranks. At all cost, they must not resort to their usual tactic of instructing gag orders with the hopes that local rumblings and especially that which involve public funds will be swept under the carpet.

Penang claims it practises Competency, Accountability and Transparency (CAT). Then DAP should make it a point to enforce CAT within their own party among their own ranks too.

Otherwise the CAT system reflects no more than kittens at play.

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