

**Selangor MB Should Not Avoid Debate On Talam Deal**  
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**By Wong Koon Mun**

The politically skewed response statement issued by Faekah Husin, political secretary to the Selangor Menteri Besar Khalid Ibrahim's non-acceptance to the debate challenge by MCA Young Professionals Bureau Chairman Chua Tee Yong to clear the air on Talam-gate shows the Menteri Besar is afraid and trying to avoid the issues raised.

The response thrown by Faekah only fulfills the typical standard operating procedure (SOP) of the Pakatan Selangor state government i.e. to blame previous government and to divert attention from the main issue at hand.

The question now raised is the transaction deal between the Pakatan state administration and Talam. News reports on her statement suggest that DAP's self-proclaimed Talam-gate defender Tony Pua would have to meet the Menteri Besar to obtain information on Talam-gate. This indicates that the person who is fully involved in all of Talam's colossal debt restructuring and who has knowledge from A to Z on this state government bailout of a private entity is non-other than the Menteri Besar himself, Khalid.

In this context, I urge the chief of the Selangor administration to have some iota of courage and face up to the debate challenge. The Menteri Besar should not cower and run away simply to avoid any questions posed. It indicates he is fearful of more Pandora boxes on Talam-gate being unleashed. Otherwise, why after two years, there is still no White Paper despite claiming in the state assembly that it would be released.

#### Inconsistencies in DAP's statements

Feeble explanations (read "excuses") offered by DAP in response to Chua's exposés contain contradictions within themselves. For example, DAP claims all debts are hidden and there was no effort by any state subsidiaries to collect the debts from Talam. However Selangor senior exco Teresa Kok claimed that the current Pakatan state government is obligated to abide with all agreements signed by the previous Barisan Nasional state government.

In addition, Chua has disclosed a document signed by Khalid in July 2009 whereby the Menteri Besar had instructed that all previous settlement agreements with Talam be terminated and a task force is formed to negotiate new terms on the Talam debt settlement.

The Menteri Besar and his Pakatan pact which came into office championing Competency, Accountability, Transparency should be able to easily provide adequate replies after two years to all the questions raised.

Or is the CAT battle cry merely an empty slogan with no attempt to put into practice?