

He is ungrateful, says Keng Yaik

NSF- 18/3/2007

KUALALUMPUR: "Instead of getting a thank you, I get a kick in the back."

This is what Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said of People's Progressive Party president Datuk M. Kayveas who is battling to become the Taiping constituency BN chief.

"Gerakan won the Taiping seat for eight terms continuously from 1969 to 2004 and yet we sacrificed the seat to accommodate Kayveas when we were requested by the prime minister and the menteri besar to give it up for him."

Dr Lim, who feels that Kayveas is ungrateful for the sacrifice Gerakan made, said that he (Kayveas) should seek an explanation from the Barisan National chairman on the issue of who should be the Taiping constituency BN chairman.

"To me Gerakan is a stable party, it has got brains, I am not saying others got no brains," said Dr Lim in reply to a question by reporters.

"What I do not understand is why ask for the post now knowing the general election is coming



Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik says the party gave up the Taiping seat for Kayveas

soon."

PPP's position is that Kayveas, the Taiping MP, should be BN chairman of the constituency and not Gerakan's Bukit Gantang MP Tan Lian Hoe.

"I surrendered a seat which Gerakan won eight terms continuously to him and I got no thank you but a kick in the back."

He said he had no quarrel with the PPP, only with Kayveas.

He said initially Kayveas reacted to a statement which he made on April 15, 1969 when he was the candidate of the MCA and the alliance. He was then contesting in the Pekan Baru constituency in Ipoh New Town.

Dr Lim said the PPP, then known as the Perak People's Progressive Party, was in the opposition when he made the statement during the general election and which carried the headline "No PPP in five years".

"Yes I made the statement. It was made in the context of the day. We were facing the elections, May 10, 1969 and with PPP in the opposition, I could say what I liked.

"Today Kayveas seems to forget that we are component parties of the Barisan Nasional."

Dr Lim said, he was expelled by the MCA on June 1, 1973, and there were news reports the following day speculating that he planned to join the PPP.

"It was Press speculation and I can tell you at no time did I ever apply to join the PPP," he said, adding that he did not want to set out on a debate with a confused

Kayveas.

"He said I was sacked from MCA in 1969 and when I say no I was not sacked in 1969 and was still in the MCA because I was still a minister in 1972, he says I was sacked in 1973 and I tried to join PPP."

When told that the PPP Youth and the Wanita wing wanted to boycott Gerakan functions, Dr Lim said: "Boycott or no boycott I have already told the Central Working Committee, including the Youth and Wanita, not to respond anymore.

"We are not against PPP. I think our youth did say that they would boycott Kayveas, not PPP programmes."

Asked about the challenge to him to give up the party presidency and ministerial position, Dr Lim said he was already stepping down as Gerakan president.

"He has no need to challenge me. I had already decided to step down. What more does he want ... my minister's post ~~can~~ become a full minister?" asked Dr Lim, who chaired the Gerakan central working committee meeting for the last time yesterday.