

Kayveas: Just shut up, Keng Yaik!

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KUALA LUMPUR: Not a man to mince words, Datuk M. Kayveas had a few choice ones for Gerakan chief Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik.

Announcing that the People's Progressive Party (PPP) is dropping its bid to merge with Gerakan, the PPP president said Dr Lim should "*diam sa-ja-lah*" (shut up) and give other leaders a chance to voice their opinions.

Dr Lim should practice what he preaches, said Kayveas after launching PPP Titiwangsa division's Jum! PPP Young Entrepreneur Programme yes-

terday.

Since Dr Lim said a few months ago that former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should not get involved with government affairs after retirement, "the same should apply to Dr Lim. If he wants to retire, why interfere with my suggestion? Just retire gracefully".

Kayveas said he knows there are Gerakan members who still love and respect Dr Lim, but they have to understand that their president must respect other people's president as well.

Upset with what he describes as Dr Lim's attitude of pretending to be "stupid and later run people down",

Kayveas said a leader should treat people with respect and professionalism.

"Be a gentleman. Don't jump the gun. "If you didn't want (the merger) all along, say it without using the daughter-father analogy.

"Don't come and tell me grandmother stories. I don't understand this.

"Who wants to marry his daughter and kill his father?"

"When we say something, they attack us all the time.

"Why must they have such an approach?" he asked.

He said he could not understand Dr Lim's violent reaction to what was just a suggestion.

"If you don't want to merge,

it's OK.

"We stop here. No problem. At least we have a decision now.

"With or without Gerakan, our struggle still continues.

"As a young leader, I'm just suggesting this as it will benefit the people in the end," said Kayveas, adding that he apologises if his proposal offended anyone.

He said his suggestion, made on Nov 19 at the Penang PPP convention, was a sincere proposal.

There was no intention to get more seats or higher positions.

"That's the problem with political parties nowadays.

"When a suggestion is made for the future betterment of the country, some leaders automatically think of seats or positions. I sympathise with such leaders because I don't think in such terms.

"If the proposal is not suitable for you, just tell us without getting personal," he said.

He said he made the suggestion because Gerakan is getting weaker, especially since former deputy president Datuk Seri Kerk Choo Ting lost his post in the last party elections.

He said the party is split as a result of Kerk's departure, and in Taiping, Gerakan has four opposing camps.