

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	23 SEPTEMBER 2016

# Ambiga: Why is your father working with Dr M?

NST-23/9/2016

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng was left red faced yesterday when he questioned social activist Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan on why she was willing to work with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, only to be told he should first explain why his own father was doing so.

"You are working with (Dr) Mahathir.

"Why are you doing this? Are you forgiving him for what he has done (to the country)?" Guan Eng had questioned Ambiga during a hard-hitting session at the International Malaysia Law Conference 2016 here.

Ambiga, who was the moderator of the session, responded by saying that even Guan Eng's father, DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang, was willing to work with Dr Mahathir.

She said the question of her and Bersih chairperson Maria Chin Abdullah forgiving the 91-year-old did not arise.

"The forgiveness issue has never arisen. I see it as a necessity... We are facing a 'greater evil'," the former Bar Council president said.

Ambiga said even Guan Eng's father, who was imprisoned under the Internal Security Act, had set aside his differences with Dr Mahathir, just as Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had done.

"I did not face any jail sentence, unlike Kit Siang or Anwar, and even they are willing to go ahead (and work with Dr Mahathir).

"Who am I compared with the both of them? I completely agree that the entire system is rotten because of the previous regime.

"However, the country should come first now before anything



**Lim Guan Eng**

else," she said.

Guan Eng, who is also DAP secretary-general, had earlier questioned Ambiga joining forces with Dr Mahathir on the Mahathir-Kit Siang Declaration calling for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's removal over the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) issue.

Later, Ambiga questioned Guan Eng over DAP's pledge to hold local council elections in Penang, which had yet to happen even though the party was in its second term of power in the state.

She queried Guan Eng over why he had failed to implement the elections in Penang and continued to appoint local councillors along party lines.

Ambiga said it was as if Guan Eng had lost the zest to fulfil the party's promise of conducting local council elections while it had been done in Selangor where Bersih had helped coordinate and monitor local council elections in Pulau Ketam and Seri Kembangan for the Villagers Welfare and Security Committee.



**Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan**

To this, Guan Eng only said he would reconsider the issue of having local government elections.

He said there were hindrances under the law, as only the Election Commission could run elections.

On a separate matter, Guan Eng was also grilled by Universiti Malaya political economics professor Dr Terence Gomez for not supporting the initiative for political funding the latter drew up with Transparency International Malaysia before the 13th General Election.

Guan Eng countered by challenging Gomez to check DAP's accounts.

"I welcome the idea of transparency and I invite you to scrutinise DAP's political funding because we have no money.

"I wish we had RM1 billion, but we don't," Guan Eng said.

However, Gomez countered by saying Guan Eng had said "no" during a roundtable discussion involving members of the opposition.

"I was informed that you said 'no,'" he said, before they were stopped by Ambiga.