

Ramasamy ready to leave DAP
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By Sharanjit Singh and Audrey Dermawan

PRAI: Embattled Penang DAP deputy chairman P. Ramasamy, who is at loggerheads with party national chairman Karpal Singh, is ready to relinquish all his posts and quit the party if the situation demanded it.

But he would be doing so "for the good of all and not for positions".

Ramasamy, who is also Penang deputy chief minister II, said he would leave it to the party's central executive committee to decide on his fate.

"I can return to my hometown in Sitiawan, Perak but I will not give up fighting for the Indians," he said in his winding-up speech at the state DAP convention yesterday.

On Karpal, Ramasamy said he respected the veteran leader and had no problems with him.

"Karpal is my political guru and he has every right to scold and tick me off if I had done something wrong. I have never ever belittled Karpal."

The spat between them arose after a Tamil newspaper quoted Ramasamy as saying that the party would field three Indian women candidates, and named several DAP members of parliament as potential candidates in the general election.

In the Makkal Osai article on Nov 28, Ramasamy said that he would defend both his Prai state and Batu Kawan parliamentary seats.

Karpal responded that DAP would not have warlords going around promising and announcing seats for their cronies ahead of the central executive committee decision.

Ramasamy shot back by saying that while DAP should not have warlords, there should also not be any "godfathers" in the party.

In his speech, Ramasamy said he had ended up a victim of a political conspiracy by certain quarters who were out to tarnish his reputation.

Commenting on party colleagues R.S.N. Rayer and A. Thanasekaran, who had been critical of him since he made the "godfathers" remark, Ramasamy said they both continued to hit out at him although he had given his side of the story.

After his speech, Ramasamy extended his hand to Karpal, but the veteran did not respond.

Ramasamy also waited to greet Karpal after the convention ended, but Karpal had already left.

But earlier, before delivering his winding-up speech, Ramasamy shrugged off Karpal's warning and dismissed calls that he apologise over his "godfather" remark.

“What? Apologise?... I don’t know the meaning of the word. For now, I will take things as they are. I will not be intimidated or affected by this Karpal later remarked that a simple handshake would not erase an indelible mark which Ramasamy’s “godfathers” statement had left in his psyche.

“I can forgive but I cannot forget. What he said about the ‘godfather’ can be interpreted to mean that I should be got rid of by the party. He was not genuine in offering his hand to me.”

Karpal said Ramasamy ought to know by now that he was only offered a double seat to contest in the last general election due to his (Karpal) insistence. “I did all this but he has proven to be ungrateful.”

Additional reporting by Looi Sue Chern

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