

**Tsu Koon tells Gerakan to soldier on like DAP, PAS**  
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**By Yow Hong Chieh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 — Gerakan chief Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon wants the party to emulate DAP and PAS's fighting spirit, in never giving up to win votes.

"Their fighting spirit when they were down, we have to pay them some respect. But I believe Gerakan can do better than DAP and PAS," he said in his closing address at the Gerakan National Delegates Conference here today.

"If they can fight back, I'm sure Gerakan can do better than them," he added.

Koh pointed out that DAP did not give up the ghost even after being reduced to one seat in Penang from 1995 to 2008, and that PAS had soldiered on despite being "left in the political wilderness" from 1978 to 1990.

But he cautioned that the party should not resort to "empty talk" like current Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng but instead continue its efforts to do good work for the people.

Taking a pot shot at his successor, Koh also said it was impossible for Lim to have done much good work for the state as the latter's time was mostly taken up by publicity efforts as secretary-general of DAP.

"I know of somebody who's doing a lot of publicity in Penang but I don't think he's doing much work," he said.

Koh added that Gerakan must not become "parti wayang" (for-show party) and continue to hold firm to its principles and integrity for the sake of driving real change.

"Gerakan leaders are usually leaders who do work... and we want to deliver, not just empty talk. We should be proud of this tradition of Gerakan," he said.

Gerakan has fallen on tough times after it was decimated by opposition parties in the 2008 general election.

The Barisan Nasional (BN) component party suffered its most embarrassing defeat then when it lost Penang after helming the state for nearly 40 years.

Gerakan failed to secure a single seat during the polls, while Umno won 11 seats in the 40-seat state assembly. DAP made a clean sweep and secured all 19 state seats it contested, while PKR won nine and PAS, one.

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