

**Umno wants Tsu Koon out, says Guan Eng**  
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**By Shannon Teoh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 18 — Lim Guan Eng today accused Umno of trying to topple Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

The Bagan MP said it was clear that Umno calls the shots in Gerakan and decides on Barisan Nasional's (BN) Penang chief minister candidate.

The Penang chief minister told a press conference here today that there is a campaign in Umno-controlled media such as Utusan Malaysia, Berita Harian and the New Straits Times to topple his predecessor.

"It is clear they reflect the thinking within Umno to finish off Koh. But I don't want to be used as a pawn to topple him. It is up to his party whether or not to be yes-men and play to Umno's tune.

"Umno decides who leads Gerakan and also who to be chief minister in Penang," Lim (picture) said.

The DAP secretary-general also said that a general election expected soon will see "a very tough battle but we will let the people decide if they want a people's CM or a CM controlled by Umno cronies."

Gerakan president Koh has come under heavy fire since last weekend after his own Wanita chief Datuk Seri Tan Lian Hoe called on him to shape up or ship out.

She later clarified that she had instead called on the minister in the Prime Minister's Department not to contest in the coming polls.

But BN-controlled media has stepped up criticism of the senator over the weekend, with Utusan Malaysia saying that his leadership has not seen the party recover since it was nearly wiped out in the March 2008 elections.

A Sabah Umno lawmaker also accused Gerakan yesterday of paying RM300 to members of the public to attend a launch of its branch office in Tawau by Koh a few weeks ago.

Kalabakan MP Datuk Ghapur Salleh also told Koh to forget about contesting in Sabah as the Chinese community there would not support the party.

Gerakan was wiped out in its stronghold of Penang where it ceded the state administration to Pakatan Rakyat (PR). It also won just two federal seats nationwide.

Gerakan has struggled to recover from the mauling it took in Election 2008 and Koh said on Sunday he was willing to "sacrifice himself" for the good of the party.

He stopped short, however, of confirming if this included resigning his post.

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