

Tee Keat denies claims of crossover to Pakatan
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By Shannon Teoh

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 29 — Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat denied today rumours that he will join the DAP or PKR, calling such allegations “mischievous and unethical.”

Reports online had claimed the former MCA president met PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Selangor DAP chief Teresa Kok on separate occasions before this week’s Deepavali celebrations.

But the Pandan MP said today “this has never happened, otherwise you would have reported it” when asked if he was planning to join another party.

Although he confirmed that he has received offers from other parties, he said “it is nothing new to me and has happened for a few years now. But I stop at that and it is all water under the bridge.”

Speculation that Ong (picture) will leave the MCA gained momentum after he vowed in February to defend his Pandan seat even if he was dropped by the party.

Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek, who deposed Ong as MCA boss in a bitter contest 19 months ago, also called on his predecessor to leave the party after Ong criticised the Barisan Nasional component of being “irrelevant” just before this month’s annual general assembly.

Ong told reporters today that he did not discuss any plans to join the DAP when he met Selangor executive councillor Kok for lunch on October 25.

He said the meeting was to discuss the long-standing issue of high-tension power cables that were installed in 2008 but never put into operation due to protests from over 7,000 residents affected.

The former transport minister pointed out that that a local councillor and resident association’s representative were also present at the lunch.

“So if we discussed any such thing, they would know,” he said.

He blamed “rumour mongers... paid cybertroopers” for spreading the allegations and specifically fingered the MCA for the “rumour that I met Anwar and was about to hop to PKR.”

“I bump into him in Parliament and on other occasions. I am taken aback that people like to spin these stories. Since when has that become a favourite pastime of politicians? Don’t they have better things to do?” he said.

“I also have the opportunity to talk to PAS people, including the exco member and state assemblyman (Iskandar Abdul Samad) within my constituency. I won’t be surprised, next round, they will speculate I am going to join PAS,” he added.

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