

Retract 'out of touch' remark, DAP tells MCA
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 — The DAP wants the MCA to retract its remark that Malaysians abroad were "out of touch" and should not be allowed to vote.

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said the statement by the MCA's Datuk Ei Kim Hock at the parliamentary select committee's (PSC) public hearing last Friday showed that Barisan Nasional's (BN) second biggest component party regarded Malaysians living overseas as "second-class" citizens.

The MCA central committee member told the panel on electoral reform that Malaysians overseas were not qualified to vote as they are "out of touch" with the current state of affairs in the country.

Ei said the MCA's research had shown that most Malaysians overseas only received information from questionable sources, which may not reflect the true conditions on the ground.

"Does it mean that once you leave Malaysia, you are no longer a Malaysian? Do not discriminate against Malaysians studying and working overseas, their passports still show they are Malaysians," Lim told reporters here.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek has since clarified that the MCA did not agree with overseas voting purely because it presented a "logistical nightmare" as considerable resources would have to be devoted to ensure its success.

In response, Lim said that Dr Chua's clarification would not suffice.

"They need to apply to the PSC, and take back what they said. It is insulting, and they owe Malaysians living overseas an apology."

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