

No MCA ban on Perkasa events
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KUALA LUMPUR: MCA will not ban its members and supporters from attending any of Perkasa's future festive events.

The party's president, Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek said such an act was very much uncalled for as the "white ang pow packets" incident was not done on purpose.

"I will not impose the ban, as this is a democratic country and they (MCA members) are free to take part in Perkasa's festive events.

"We are not like certain quarters, who claim that they are advocates of democracy, but will, however, call for a ban on press organisations like the New Straits Times and Utusan Malaysia from attending their press meets," Dr Chua said, in an apparent reference to the move by Penang Chief Minister and DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng to bar reporters both of the organisations from attending his functions.

Chua's statement yesterday is in relation to Perkasa's move to distribute white ang pow packets to its Chinese guests during a Chinese New Year open house hosted by them last Sunday.

The white packets are believed to be a taboo to the Chinese community to be distributed during auspicious celebrations as it symbolised death.

Perkasa's president, Datuk Ibrahim Ali has since apologised, citing it as an oversight and ensured that such mistakes would not be repeated. He said that he was unaware of the uproar and surprised that nobody pointed it out to him on that day. Perkasa expected only 200 people to turn up for its open house but 700 people showed up.

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