

Kedah MCA Seeks Explanation From MB Over NGO Aid 'Rebate'
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ALOR SETAR, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Kedah MCA has asked Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak for an explanation over the alleged 30 per cent "rebate" non-governmental organisations are required to give for the financial aid they get from the state government.

Its chairman, Datuk Chong Itt Chew, in making the request, claimed that eight NGOs in the state had informed the party of this "rebate" at a dialogue with MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek in Sungai Petani two days ago and it was reported today in the Chinese newspapers.

The reports quoted State Executive Councillor Tan Chow Kang as acknowledging that every NGO which accepted a contribution from the state government, state executive councillor or state assemblyman is required to give a 30 per cent "rebate" to certain quarters.

"If this statement attributed to Chow Kang is correct, I ask that the menteri besar provide an explanation. If he declines, then I ask Chow Kang to do so. If Chow Kang also prefers to remain silent, we know what to do," Chong told reporters.

Chow Kang is the chairman of the State Environment, Chinese Community Affairs and Transport Committee.

Chong, who was a state executive councillor when Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain was the menteri besar, said he was surprised over Chow Kang's claim that Umno had practised this so-called "rebate" policy.

"Where did he get that information? This does not happen in the Barisan Nasional (BN). We have procedures. For example, a cheque for the full amount is issued to the recipient. There is no rebate," he said.

Chong said that at the dialogue in Sungai Petani, one NGO claimed that its aid of RM50,000 had RM15,000 deducted from it, leaving only RM35,000.

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