

Chua: Lim will never be PM
TheStarOnline
March 17, 2012
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KUALA LUMPUR: The *rakyat* should not be deceived by the promises of Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng because he will never be Prime Minister, said MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek.

He said Lim had been telling voters that if they support DAP, Pakatan could replicate what the coalition had been doing in Penang.

"This is not true because he (Lim) will not call the shots. Lim Guan Eng will never be the Prime Minister," he told reporters at a press conference after chairing the party's central committee meeting here yesterday.

He urged Chinese voters not to be hoodwinked by the Opposition but to evaluate Pakatan's performance in the four states it rules.

Dr Chua said DAP only talked about what it had been doing in Penang but not about Pakatan's performance in Kedah, Kelantan and Selangor.

When asked to comment on a recent report that all MCA ministers and deputy ministers would focus on the 20 winnable parliamentary seats to retain at least 15 seats in the general election, Dr Chua pointed out that all 130 seats which belonged to the MCA were winnable if the party worked hard enough.

"Do not write off MCA just because of the 2008 general election results," he said.

Dr Chua also reminded party leaders and members not to sabotage Barisan Nasional candidates in the next elections or risk having their party membership suspended.

On another matter, Dr Chua said street demonstrations would not solve the shortage of teachers in Chinese schools.

Instead, he said a special committee, chaired by Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong, was in the process of addressing the problem by getting input from stakeholders.

He said MCA's stand was to have all 1,874 vacancies in these schools filled by temporary teachers and headmasters should be empowered to employ them.

Dong Zong (the United Chinese School Committees) has threatened to stage a street demonstration on March 25 to protest against the shortage of teachers in Chinese schools and the transfer of non-Chinese speaking teachers to Chinese schools.

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