

No point addressing lies, says Guan Eng
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 19 — Lim Guan Eng dismissed today criticisms that he failed to reply to questions from the floor in yesterday's debate with political rival Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek, saying he does not respond to lies.

The Penang chief minister told reporters in the island that he did not touch on whether the state government had increased local assessment fees; why DAP supported hudud; and if land was allocated to Chinese vernacular schools as the allegations made were untrue.

"Did we increase?" the DAP secretary general asked local Penang reporters. "Chua Soi Lek said we support hudud. We have already said many times we oppose hudud and that is why you don't have it in Penang. You know and I know."

"If you want to reply to lies, you will have no time to present your policies," the Bagan MP said.

The highly anticipated debate saw Lim attacking Dr Chua's MCA for being unable to stop graft within the Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition.

But the former health minister took DAP to task for being "a slave" to PAS, the Islamic party in the opposition Pakatan Rakyat (PR) pact.

The debate, themed "Chinese at a Crossroads. Is the 2 Party System Becoming a 2 Race System?" was also screened on Astro in Mandarin with Malay translation provided.

The floor largely backed a stern-looking Dr Chua whose opponent smiled throughout most of the debate despite enduring heavy fire from questions by the audience.

Lim added today that as the debate was organised by MCA, "eight or nine out of the 10 questions" were directed towards him instead of the MCA president.

"You get six minutes of questions but only three minutes to answer. Even Chua Soi Lek agreed there was no time. A debate should not be a forum to spew lies and personal attacks," he said.

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