

Chua: MCA is not afraid
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YONG PENG: The MCA will not be intimidated by the lawsuit which the Selangor government has threatened to file over allegations concerning deals worth more than RM1bil, said its president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek.

Dr Chua said he welcomed the lawsuit and hoped Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim would not use the legal action to suppress MCA from talking about the controversy.

The Selangor government has been challenged to explain how a debt recovery exercise to get back RM392mil from a public-listed company ended in questionable deals worth more than RM1bil.

Dr Chua said the people had the right to question the matter.

"Don't use this (lawsuit) to threaten us, we will not feel threatened and will continue to speak up.

"He (Khalid) has the right to sue, but let's hope that the suing is not like a gag order against the MCA to cover the facts and divert attention.

"We raise this because we want the state government to enlighten the rakyat as it involves public funds," he said after attending a dinner organised by Sam Shen Kuan Association here on Thursday.

Dr Chua said the Opposition always championed its *ketuanan rakyat* (the people's supremacy), transparency, credibility and performance, so it had the responsibility to explain the controversy.

"We just want to know the restructuring of Talam because it is the rakyat's money," he said, adding that MCA would continue to do whatever is necessary to protect the rakyat's interests.

Dr Chua also praised MCA leaders nationwide who had been more vocal and urged them to continue to speak up as long as it was right.

The state government is said to have acquired land worth RM392mil and bought additional assets for RM284mil from Talam Corporation bringing the total acquisition to RM676mil.

MCA Young Professionals Bureau chief Datuk Chua Tee Yong said the state government also received a RM392mil grant to facilitate the debt recovery exercise.

Khalid had said on Wednesday that the allegations were untrue and the state would sue those who had accused it over the issue. Yesterday, he again reiterated that the state would sue.

Selangor MCA Youth chief Dr Kow Cheong Wei said the people deserved to know the truth, adding that the state government, instead of explaining to the people, was trying to cover up by threatening legal action.

"We do not expect the state government to explain the intricate details regarding the circumstances surrounding this issue, but they must at least be made accountable to the people," he said in a statement yesterday.

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