

Kit Siang insists polls fight between coalitions, blasts MCA's 'two-race' claim
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SKUDAI, May 6 — The DAP's Lim Kit Siang has slammed political rival Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek for depicting the opposition's gains in Johor as a contest between two races, insisting that Election 2013 was a choice between the two coalitions of Pakatan Rakyat (PR) and Barisan Nasional (BN).

"Chua Soi Lek has been trying to give the impression that this is a two-race system.

"This is a two-coalition system," Lim said firmly when speaking to reporters at the GoodHope hotel here in the early hours of this morning, after winning the Gelang Patah contest last night.

The DAP veteran leader accused Dr Chua, the MCA president, of influencing former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"I believe that Mahathir was influenced by Chua Soi Lek," Lim said, referring to Dr Mahathir's accusation that Lim went to Gelang Patah to allegedly create a "racial confrontation" by pitting the Chinese against the Malays.

"Don't try to racialise the results of these elections," Lim said, adding that this would amount to a betrayal of the "1 Malaysia" concept.

About an hour ago before Lim's immediate response, Dr Chua had written on his Twitter account: "2-race system now. MCA will respect the voters' decision that if we can't perform better than last GE, we won't take up any govt post."

When commenting on the second part of Dr Chua's statement that the MCA will turn down government positions if it doesn't improve its 2008 results, Lim said the party was itself at fault.

"The MCA's position is all of their own doing. They only have themselves to blame," Lim said of the Chinese-based MCA's lacklustre performance in yesterday's polls.

Out of the seven federal seats it contested in Johor, the MCA lost three to the DAP — Bakri, Kluang and Kulai — but managed to triumph over the DAP and its PR allies to win the four seats of Labis, Ayer Hitam, Tanjung Piai and Tebrau.

In the MCA's bid for 16 state seats in Johor yesterday, it lost 13 of them to the DAP and one to PAS.

The MCA managed to win only two state seats in Johor, namely Pulai Sebatang and Sebatang, with a majority of 3,412 votes and a razor-thin majority of 103 votes respectively.

The MCA's relatively poor showing in Johor yesterday would significantly cut its parliamentary representation across the country, which means that it may have to turn down any offer of government positions.

The MCA presidential council had two years ago made a promise to decline such positions if the party fails to improve on its 2008 result.

In 2008, it won seven of the eight federal seats it contested in Johor, while 12 out of its 15 candidates in Johor snapped up state seats.

The BN component party had won 15 federal seats and 35 state seats nationally in 2008, with a significant coming from Johor.

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