

Kit Siang dismisses proposal that DAP joins BN
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By Ida Lim

KUALA LUMPUR, May 9 — The DAP's Lim Kit Siang said today there would be "no consideration" given to suggestions that the party joins political rival Barisan Nasional (BN).

"I'm not giving them any consideration but we are waiting for all these various proposals to come," he told reporters, saying that a lot of new suggestions and proposals were coming up.

Lim was responding to former Information Minister Tan Sri Zainuddin Maidin's proposal on his blog Zamkata.

"It will certainly be difficult for the DAP to take the step (offer to join the BN) and likewise for the BN to accept, but this matter must be seen in the context of Datuk Seri Najib Razak's call for national reconciliation following the 'Chinese tsunami' against the BN in Sunday's 13th general election (GE13) which turned out to be a bitter pill for the country," Zainuddin was yesterday quoted as saying by state news agency Bernama, which cited his blog Zamkata.

Zainuddin had made the suggestion for the continued representation of the Chinese community in the government by reportedly asking DAP to offer to join the BN administration.

The DAP is sometimes regarded as a Chinese-based party, despite the opposition party pointing out that it has a multiracial leadership and membership base.

When asked about the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI)'s proposal for BN to work together with Pakatan Rakyat (PR), Lim replied: "This is a field day for all sorts of ideas and proposals. We'll wait and see."

Yesterday, ASLI's CEO Tan Sri Michael Yeoh had proposed that Umno work together with the three PR parties of DAP, PKR and PAS to form a united government.

"There are no permanent friends or foes in politics and by coming together, the nation can move forward to face future vicissitudes and challenges.

"Even in the United Kingdom, the Conservatives and LibDems can form a coalition government and there are also many examples in other countries," Yeoh was quoted as saying by Bernama.

Zainuddin statement comes on the back of MCA's failure to improve its 2008 polls result of 15 federal seats when it won only seven federal seats last Sunday, leading MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek to reiterate a two-year-old promise that the Chinese-based BN party would not be taking up any government posts.

Gerakan, another BN component party seen to be a Chinese-based party and had similarly performed poorly with a win of one federal seat, today appeared to indicate that it would not follow MCA's lead in rejecting government posts as it believed in BN's policies.

"Just because you lose miserably, does not mean you just want to decline the post.

"You can decline or reject the post if you have policy differences or you do not agree with the Government policy, yes you must reject," Gerakan deputy president Datuk Chang Ko Youn was reported saying by The Star today.

The BN coalition also won with a weaker majority by taking 133 out of 222 federal seats, having ceded an additional seven seats to the federal opposition as compared to the 2008 polls results.

Out of the 89 federal seats won by PR, DAP had the largest share with its win of 38 seats.

BN also lost the popular vote to PR - the first time since the 1969 elections where the long-ruling coalition had contested as the Alliance Party.

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