

DAP dares Najib to guarantee its safety, wants to fight RoS in court
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The DAP today made the Prime Minister a target in its party polls dispute with the Registrar of Societies (RoS).

Secretary-general Lim Guan Eng (pic) said if Datuk Seri Najib Razak is willing to guarantee that the party will not be deregistered, then DAP is willing to immediately file a judicial review to correct an obvious travesty of justice.

He was referring of course to the RoS order that DAP must hold fresh elections for its central executive committee (CEC).

"Otherwise the DAP has to face the reality of the brutality of ROS abuses of power by following the ROS directive to hold re-elections even though DAP has done no wrong," Lim said in a statement.

The Penang chief minister was hitting back at the prime minister who yesterday criticised DAP's handling of the issue while saying that his party, Umno, was a credible political party, that it played by the rules, and was ready to walk the talk.

"What the ROS had directed them to do is correct and according to regulations," Najib said yesterday.

"DAP claims to be fighting for democracy and yet, when it comes to their party election, they are not willing to do things according to regulations."

Najib, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, said 753 DAP delegates, who were allegedly eligible to attend its annual general meeting but were not allowed to participate, was a big figure.

Lim said Najib was repeating the lies of Utusan Malaysia, New Straits Times and a vicious, fictitious account by a Father Augustus Chen, who did not even exist.

Lim added that even the RoS knew that the allegation about the 753 DAP delegates was a lie as the RoS refused to state this as the reason or any other reasons in ordering DAP to hold a re-election.

"By only saying that it is dissatisfied without giving any reasons, it is clear that the ROS is unable to do so because it has no valid reasons to give," he said.

However, he said the DAP was compelled to submit to this grave injustice and abuse of power by RoS in the interest of the party's very survival.

Lim said DAP leaders were worried that the RoS may use the pretext of DAP challenging the RoS decision in court to further abuse their powers by deregistering DAP.

He said DAP leaders could not passively wait to die but must be pro-active to fight for "our survival in the face of such overt hostility and mala fide intent of the ROS towards the DAP".

On Thursday, its chairman Karpal Singh issued a statement that the party had decided to hold the re-election.

On July 30, RoS director-general Datuk Abdul Rahman Othman ordered DAP to do that because he was not satisfied with the party's explanation of a vote counting mix-up.

He said he was acting on complaints by several disgruntled members who claimed the CEC election was not properly conducted after the party announced that a glitch in tabulation had resulted in the wrong candidate being elected to the CEC.

Later, a booklet called "The Equity Report (CEC Election Fraud)" on the alleged irregularities and internal politics in the DAP polls, written by a Father Augustus Chen, was also widely distributed in Penang.

DAP has denied the accusations and claimed "Father Augustus Chen" was a fictitious character conjured up by Umno to discredit the party. – August 17, 2013.

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