

DAP says Waythamoorthy should quit if he has any self-respect
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DAP chairman Karpal Singh has joined in the calls for the resignation of Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department P. Waythamoorthy.

In a statement today, Karpal said the former Hindraf leader should step down if he had any "dignity or self-respect".

Waythamoorthy had drawn fire after he recently criticised the police shooting of five alleged gang members in Penang.

Following that, Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein and Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin condemned Waythamoorthy for his criticism and told him to toe the government line or quit.

The latest rebuke came yesterday from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak who reminded him of the importance of having "one voice" as part of the government.

Prior to that, the deputy minister rejected the calls to quit and insisted he would not be silent on issues, saying, "I cannot be a disinterested observer on the sidelines just because I am in government."

Said Karpal: "Waythamoorthy is not a deputy minister in his own right. He is not an elected representative of the people. He has no moral authority to the post he is holding in government.

"If he has any dignity or self-respect, he should step down immediately."

Karpal also reiterated his call to the government to hold an inquest into the deaths of J. Gobinath, 31, R. Ramesh, 27, N. Rakan, 25, M. Suresh, 25, and M. Gobinath, 21, who were killed in that shootout on August 19.

All five were killed at an apartment in Penang. Police said they were hired killers who belonged to the 04 Gang and had been involved in at least 12 shooting cases in three states.

Police said the five opened fire first and they returned fire. Their families have lodged four police reports demanding an inquest into their deaths.

Opposition lawmakers have criticised police for the shooting.

"They could well have been arrested without the need for the police to have been trigger-happy," Karpal said.

"The police must be prepared to justify their actions in court and the families of the men who were killed be given the opportunity to have the truth established." - August 30, 2013.

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