

Stop attacks on DAP or face legal action, Karpal warns RoS
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BY EILEEN NG

As the DAP prepared to elect its central executive committee (CEC) this morning, the party's chairman warned the Registrar of Societies (RoS) to stop attacking it or be prepared to face legal action.

Karpal Singh said this would be the DAP's last warning to the RoS.

"I have been watching the RoS since December last year and have been paying attention to what he has been saying," he said, referring to the statements made by RoS director-general Datuk Abdul Rahman Othman.

"And I am not going to let him go if he says something that is detrimental to the DAP. Don't play-play with the Rocket. This is the final warning," he said in his opening speech when the party gathered today to elect its CEC to meet a directive sent by RoS on July 30.

The election was ordered by RoS after several disgruntled members claimed that the election in December last year was not properly conducted after the party announced that a tabulation glitch had resulted in the wrong candidate being elected to the CEC. The mistake was addressed soon after.

A party delegate talks on his phone as he prepares to cast his ballot during the DAP special congress in Petaling Jaya today. – The Malaysian Insider pic by Najjua Zulkefli, September 29, 2013. A party delegate talks on his phone as he prepares to cast his ballot during the DAP special congress in Petaling Jaya today. – The Malaysian Insider pic by Najjua Zulkefli, September 29, 2013. The disgruntled members also claimed they were not informed of the party polls.

National organising secretary Anthony Loke had rebutted the allegations that it did not inform 753 delegates of the party polls and produced evidence of members' attendance and signatures, plus postal receipts which showed notices were sent out.

A total of 2,576 delegates from 985 branches will elect the 20 CEC members.

Turnout today is estimated at nearly 85%, compared to 71% at the previous congress. Members will vote from 1pm, with results expected by 7pm.

An international auditing firm was appointed by the party to monitor the counting process to prevent a repeat of wrong tabulation of votes.

An attempt by a former grassroots leader to file a suit to stop today's polls was dismissed by the Kuala Lumpur High Court on Friday.

Karpal warned the RoS not to take the party's patience for granted, adding that the party wants to be left alone to get on with its work after today's meeting.

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng walks to the podium during the party's special congress in Petaling Jaya today. – The Malaysian Insider pic by Najjua Zulkefli, September

29, 2013. DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng walks to the podium during the party's special congress in Petaling Jaya today. - The Malaysian Insider pic by Najjua Zulkefli, September 29, 2013. According to Karpal, DAP should not be penalised for being honest in admitting the glitch.

"We could have just kept quiet and let sleeping dogs lie. We did not do that because we are a principled party which will not allow a wrong to go uncorrected," he said.

Describing today's election as "extraordinary", the Jelutong MP paid tribute to the large turnout.

"This will show the RoS that DAP is strong. Don't play-play with DAP," Karpal said to thunderous applause from the floor.

He also called on the party to consider the advice from law expert Shad Saleem Faruqi to have a dialogue with RoS.

In his address, secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said despite its run-ins with RoS over the fresh polls in the past few months, the party will continue to stand tall.

"We will show RoS we will defeat their latest efforts. DAP will be strong and we will not be bullied anymore," he said.

The Penang Chief Minister said his party will emerge stronger due to the crisis and will continue to fight for the people. - September 29, 2013.

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