

**DAP Malacca reps lock horns over chief minister**  
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**BY JENNIFER GOMEZ**

Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Idris Haron's handling of the Jonker Walk night market and pig abattoir issues showed him up to be neither approachable nor professional in management, said DAP state representative Khoo Poay Tiong today.

Hence, Idris was not worthy of the praise showered on him by Duyong assemblyman Goh Leong San, said Khoo.

He was commenting on the saga involving Goh and his deputy Lim Jak Wong (Bachang assemblyman), who resigned as opposition leader and opposition whip of the state assembly respectively, yesterday.

Goh's colleagues in the state were reportedly unhappy that he had praised Idris' leadership.

However, Goh, who is DAP state chairman, and Lim, said they were still party members and had no plans to leave.

Goh was quoted in a daily last week praising Idris for being "approachable" and a "professional manager".

He had said that the opposition had approached the chief minister on many issues and he had looked into their predicament without rejecting them.

However, Khoo said today that Idris had insisted that the Jonker Walk night market will be closed and that the pig abattoir will also be closed by the end of this year although a new one was not ready.

He said that if Idris had told the state assembly that he was reversing his decision on Jonker Walk and the abattoir, he would have deserved the praise.

"But he didn't. Instead, he said that he will close the abattoir and when we asked whether the new one was ready, he said it was not. He also reaffirmed his decision on Jonker Walk," he added.

Khoo said Goh's praise for the chief minister was a 180-degree turn from his earlier stand, where he had announced before a 5,000-strong crowd that he would file a motion of no-confidence against Idris for his decision on Jonker Walk.

He also said questions were being raised among the public over DAP's show of support for the chief minister.

"Goh should not have taken this issue to the Chinese press," Khoo said, adding that he should have used internal party channels to air his grievances.

He declined to comment when asked if this was a sign that Goh might leave the party.

He said Goh's statements that people are out to topple him were questionable.

"How can that be, when he controls 80% of the branches in Malacca?" Khoo added.

In stepping down as opposition leader of the Malacca assembly, Goh implied that the party might try to topple him as state chairman, in light of the criticism from Khoo and Kota Laksamana assemblyperson Lai Kuen Ban, who are both said to be aligned to DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng. - October 9, 2013.

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