

**MCA's reason for not contesting Bukit Gelugor contradicts Najib's stand, says DAP**  
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MCA's reason for not contesting the May 25 Bukit Gelugor by-election because it wants to focus on preventing a constitutional crisis is both false and self-contradictory, DAP said today.

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong was deceiving the public by relying on the excuse of defending the Federal Constitution.

The senior Chinese Barisan Nasional party said yesterday it was sitting out the by-election to prevent a constitutional crisis in light of PAS's insistence on implementing hudud in Kelantan, and planned to go around the country to garner support.

Lim said that when BN decided against contesting the May 2009 Penanti by-election, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak then said the resignation of former Penanti assemblyman Mohammad Fairus Khairuddin was not provided for in the Federal Constitution.

Najib had said BN's position was that by-elections should only be held according to reasons provided in the Constitution and these included deaths or resignations because of bankruptcy.

"How can Liow now claim that by not contesting the Bukit Gelugor by-election, MCA is defending the Federal Constitution when it contradicts Najib's declaration in 2009 that BN will only contest a by-election held according to the Federal Constitution?"

"Former DAP chairman Karpal Singh did not resign his Bukit Gelugor parliamentary seat but was killed in an accident on April 17," Lim said in a statement, referring to the respected lawyer's death that triggered the by-election.

"Who is telling the truth, Najib or Liow Tiong Lai on the criteria for BN to contest by-elections?"

Lim said instead of travelling all over the country, Liow only needed to attend its partner Umno's 68th anniversary celebrations today to convince the Malay party to abandon its support for PAS to go ahead with its plans for hudud.

"Liow can save himself the effort of travelling all around Malaysia to oppose PAS implementing hudud in Kelantan by going to Kuala Lumpur today to convince Umno not to support PAS," he said.

The issue flared up when PAS announced plans to introduce two private members' bills in Parliament to allow it to enforce hudud in Kelantan, triggering a spate of words between the Islamist party leaders and its ally DAP, which has all along been adamantly against the implementation of the Islamic penal code in Malaysia.

PAS's intention has also been opposed by the Chinese-majority political parties although Umno's Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Jamil Khir Baharom had said the BN government was willing to support any state government that wanted to implement hudud. – May 11, 2014.

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