

Ramkarpal to continue dad's legacy of coffee shop meetings if DAP wins in Bukit Gelugor
Malaysian Insider
May 14, 2014
BY LOOI SUE-CHERN

For Ramkarpal Singh, a fitting tribute to his father would be not only to win the Bukit Gelugor by-election, but to continue his legacy in using the humble coffee shop near the Air Itam market to raise issues of national interests.

The Ju Huat Cafe played host to Karpal's weekend press conferences in Penang, which he would have after 11am on Saturdays and occasionally on Sundays.

Ramkarpal, 38, said his father would make the trip there to meet the press and his constituents, regardless if it was rain or shine. And reporters were always guaranteed of a good story from the veteran politician, who won the Bukit Gelugor parliamentary seat after the 2004 general election.

"This coffee shop holds many memories. The 'Ah Ee' (auntie) who runs the place has agreed to let us continue the practice if we win again," Ramkarpal told reporters at Ju Huat this morning during his visit to Air Itam for the by-election campaign.

He said it was like a homecoming affair for him visiting Air Itam and the coffee shop because his father loved the place.

"He would have his breakfast here and give his press conferences before going back to his office. We hope these memories and tradition will continue," he said.

State DAP chairman Chow Kon Yeow said the Penang party committee kept

a keen interest in Karpal's press conferences at the coffee shop.

"He might just make an important announcement at the shop, a decision or statement that can have great impact on national issues, the legal system and matters concerning the DAP," he said.

DAP parliamentary opposition leader Lim Kit Siang said Ramkarpal received tremendous support in Air Itam when he visited the constituents there today.

However, he expressed concern that Ramkarpal's win might not be strong enough to send a clear message to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib that the people of Bukit Gelugor will be in the forefront of political change post-GE13 (13th general election).

"I see danger in this confidence and complacency... the result may not be as clear as we want it to be," he said, adding that Malaysians should support the party's campaign to unite moderates against the extremists in the country.

"We want this 'cub' to grow into a full tiger to defend the rights of all Penangites and Malaysians," he said while rallying support for Ramkarpal to succeed his father come polling day on May 25.

Ramkarpal, the third son of Karpal Singh, was chosen by DAP to stand for the by-election in memory of Karpal's struggle for justice and the preservation of the Constitution.

Chow yesterday said that the issue of nepotism did not arise because it was a fact that Ramkarpal was the best candidate for the job.

Ramkarpal and his brother Jagdeep Singh Deo also yesterday criticised detractors accusing the party of practising nepotism with his candidacy.

DAP also called on residents of Bukit Gelugor to assume the role Karpal had left behind by joining the campaign to fight for a better Malaysia, which Karpal had long and so strongly subscribed to. – May 14, 2014.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/ramkarpal-to-continue-dads-legacy-of-coffee-shop-meetings-if-dap-wins-in-bu>