

**MCA to contest Bukit Gelugor, says Liow ignoring calls to stay out**  
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The MCA will contest the Bukit Gelugor by-election, despite some calls for the party to stay out of the contest as it is a DAP stronghold.

Its president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai (pic) said the party would shortlist potential candidates and submit it to Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"These are rumours. We are contesting," he said today after chairing the party's presidential committee meeting this afternoon.

Liow said the party's Penang liaison committee had submitted a list of candidates for consideration.

The MCA president said there was no rush as DAP would only announce its candidate after May 5.

The Bukit Gelugor parliamentary seat fell vacant following the tragic death of its two-term incumbent Karpal Singh on April 17.

The Election Commission (EC) had set May 12 as nomination day and the ballot will be on May 25.

Karpal Singh secured a 21,015-vote majority against MCA's Datuk Koay Kar Huah in 2008 and a 41,778-vote majority against MCA's Teh Beng Yam in 2013.

Though the MCA is set to contest, a majority of the 13 MCA divisions in Penang are said to be unwilling to fight for the seat.

A Barisan Nasional (BN) source told The Malaysian Insider today that "everybody knows the coalition has no chance in winning the seat" that has been a DAP stronghold for three terms.

The state BN committee was informed that the top national BN leadership is also having reservations about contesting for the parliamentary seat, the source said.

"Nobody was surprised with it. Everyone is of the opinion that MCA should not contest, including most of the divisions.

"There will be no use for BN to come and make promises or spend funds on Bukit Gelugor... this was also the case in the Kajang by-election last month," the source said. – April 29, 2014.

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