

RoS has deregistered many of our branches, says Penang Umno
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State Umno chief says they never created a fuss and followed whatever directive RoS issued.

GEORGE TOWN: Umno has told DAP to stop training its guns at the Registrar of Societies (RoS) over its party election issue as the regulator had acted fairly and professionally towards all.

Penang Umno liaison committee chairman Zainal Abidin Osman said RoS had deregistered many of its branches for not declaring their “Borang 9” without much notice.

He said some of the branches were only given notices “three to four years” later, but Umno did not make much of a fuss about it.

(Borang 9 is a checklist form for mandatory documents required to be submitted to the RoS annually. It includes minutes of annual general meetings and accounts of the branch.)

“We have never gone around saying ‘hey, Umno is in charge of the government, how can they cancel our branches?’

“Instead we have told all our 22,000-odd branches nationwide to follow the law so they do not risk deregistration,” Zainal said today.

He said DAP should hence just follow instructions given by the RoS and not point fingers and politicise the issue.

“DAP likes to blame others for any shortfalls or disasters. Stop blaming others.

“Perhaps in the next party election, DAP should call RoS to send observers?”

Zainal spoke to reporters at the Penang Umno Hari Raya open house on Macalister Road today, which was also attended by Yang di-Pertua Negeri Abdul Rahman Abbas.

DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang had said it was “not afraid” of holding another party election.

He blamed Umno's "capriciousness" to use the RoS to sabotage DAP's preparations for the 14th general election to bring about a change of federal government in Putrajaya.

The issue began when Prime Minister Najib Razak's press secretary Tengku Sariffuddin Tengku Ahmad said DAP members did not know whether the party's rocket logo could be used in GE14 since its current central executive committee (CEC) was not recognised by the RoS.

DAP's legal counsel Gobind Singh Deo said suggestions that the party's registration was at risk were erroneous as the matter had already been cleared in court in 2014.

On July 7, RoS instructed DAP to hold fresh elections for its CEC after it found that DAP's re-election, held on Sept 29, 2013, was not in accordance with the law.

This followed complaints made by DAP members who were dissatisfied with the party's 2013 re-election.

RoS director-general Mohammad Razin Abdullah said in light of these complaints, "RoS believes the appointment of the CEC members as well as the main position holders through that re-election is illegal".

"The re-election should be based on the list of delegates entitled to attend and vote for DAP's CEC elections dated Dec 15, 2012, involving 2,576 delegates from 865 branches."

He added that the RoS considers DAP a legitimate party and has no intentions of de-registering it so far.

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