

## **Kit Siang: MCA reduced to a party without principles, on beer fest stance**

**Malaysiakini**

**21 September 2017**

DAP supremo Lim Kit Siang has slammed MCA over its stance on the Better Beer Festival 2017 after its president, Liow Tiong Lai said that the party had [accepted](#) Kuala Lumpur City Hall's (DBKL) decision to reject an application to organise the event.

"MCA has been reduced to a political party without principles, as well as a thoroughly indisciplined one, by the proposed Better Beer Festival event in Kuala Lumpur next month," said Lim in a statement today.

Liow, said Lim, seemed to be taking his double role in the short video "Citizens" seriously when he first opposed the ban on the event but endorsed it after a cabinet meeting yesterday.

Liow had said that he was informed that the decision was made for security reasons as advised by the police.

"But the MCA is a thoroughly indisciplined political party, whose president is not respected even by the other MCA leaders, whether at national, state or local levels, who continue to say the very opposite of the stand of Liow, even [blaming](#) the DAP for 'strengthening' PAS to successfully oppose the Better Beer Festival!

"Have security and safety in Malaysia become so tenuous and perilous that the Better Beer Festival, which had been held for the past several years, have to be banned because of 'security' reasons?"

Lim also wonders whether this was the way to promote tourism in the country if the government and the police cannot guarantee the safety and security of localised events, such as the beer festival.

"Isn't such a ban encouraging the extremists and fanatics to up their demands, even sending a signal to Islamic State supporters that Malaysia is a fertile ground for them to cultivate to spread their brand of bigotry, extremism and intolerance in Malaysia?"

As such, Lim urged the police to provide an explanation on the matter, on whether they had advised DBKL to ban the festival due to extremist and terrorist threats.

"DAP supports the professionalism of the police force and takes seriously the police's tasks to fight crime and to ensure safety and security in Malaysia.

"The inspector-general of police, Mohamad Fuzi Harun should not allow partisan

politics to interfere with police professionalism and duties," added Lim.

The Better Beer Festival, an event to promote smaller breweries, has been taking place without much fanfare in Kuala Lumpur since 2011.

However, it came to national prominence after PAS central committee member Riduan Mohd Nor complained about it and said it would lead to reprisals from extremists.

Organisers Mybeer (M) Sdn Bhd said they had been informed that the event had to be cancelled this year due to political sensitivities.

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Source: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/395841>