

Guan Eng political deserter:

MCA Youth

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MCA Youth chief Datuk Liow Tiong Lai has described DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng as a "political deserter" for not having the guts to contest the Machap state by-election.

"Lim Guan Eng, as DAP secretary-general and who is now free to contest in elections, can contest in Machap but he has chosen to abandon Malacca to move to Penang prior to the by-election," he said.

"Lim is a free man. He is from Malacca, but he dares not contest in the by-election. If he is not afraid of losing, why is he not contesting? Instead, he is moving to Penang. He is avoiding a fight ... he is a political deserter."

The deputy youth and sports minister's remark, which he made at the launch of a youth training course in Putrajaya on Wednesday, was a tit-for-tat to DAP Socialist Youth's (Dapsy) accusation that he was a "political deserter".

He said he was unfazed by Dapsy's assertion, "because DAP has often accused others of being political deserters when, in fact, their own leaders are the real political deserters."

According to a report in *Oriental Daily News* yesterday, Liow also said DAP is *kiasu* (the Hokkien word for "afraid of losing").

"DAP like to challenge others because they are afraid of losing attention, or being ignored. They *kiasu*, thus those who ignore them would be branded political deserters by them."

He said MCA Youth would hit back at DAP for levelling accusations against the party, especially accusations which are baseless.

On Dapsy's challenge to MCA Youth to a debate on the topic "DAP has not made any contributions to the nation since the party's formation?" Liow said it is useless to debate the topic as "everyone knows whether DAP has contributed to nation-building".

"MCA Youth has nothing to say about DAP's contributions to the nation. We feel that PAS would know better DAP's 'contributions'. If DAP wants to debate, choose a topic that is meaningful and relevant to the society."

On Dapsy chief Nga Khor Ming's challenge to a one-on-one debate, Liow said what is important is the topic of the debate and that Dapsy has picked the wrong target.

They should take on the PAS instead, he said.

Meanwhile, Nga said Dapsy has no objection to a suggestion by Malacca Chinese Assembly Hall that it acts as the moderator for the proposed debate between Dapsy and MCA Youth.

He, however, has reservations about holding the debate over Astro because of time and other constraints.

He also said the debate should be between him and Liow as they are the respective chiefs of the two movements.

He also insisted that the topic be "DAP has made no contributions to the nation since the party's formation?" as claimed by Liow.

Liow should have the guts for a one-on-one debate like his predecessor did, Nga said with reference to a debate that took place between former MCA youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat and Guan Eng.