Call for state DAP chief to hold CM post

GEORGE TOWN: A DAP delegate yesterday suggested that the Penang chief minister's post be given to the state's DAP chairman.

Shamsher Singh Thind, from DAP's Chai Leng Park branch, said the mandate to rule must be given to a leader who had the trust of the grassroots.

"As such, the party's central executive committee (CEC) and the state committee ought to set a condition that the chief ministership, if held by DAP, be given to the state party chairman. It should not be given to anyone else," he said to cheers from delegates at the Penang DAP Convention 2015 here yesterday.

In recent days, calls had grown for Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng to be replaced by DAP chairman Chow Kon Yeow. Protesters staged a peaceful protest in Komtar on Saturday demanding that Lim return to Malacca and for Chow to take his place. Another protest was held prior to the convention yesterday.

Shamsher criticised the election system for the state party committee, which he described as not transparent and unfair.

He said the system of election for the state DAP committee should be amended to give full power to the grassroots to choose their leaders.

For example, he said, in the party election in Selangor recently, a majority of the delegates had elected Gobind Singh Deo, but Tony Pua, who occupied the eighth spot, was chosen as chairman.

"The system of election should be amended to make it more transparent so that the individual who receives the most votes is elected the chairman."

Shamsher said the public repute of the PKR Five over their abstention in voting against Barisan Nasional's motion smacked of hypocrisy.

He said during the Dewan Rakyat sitting, the increase in salaries for members of parliament was supported by DAP and Pakatan Harapan, despite it being a BN-mooted motion.

"If it is the job of all Pakatan Harapan members to vote against all BN motions, then why did none of the Pakatan Harapan MPs refuse the Bill Members of Parliament (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 to increase their salaries?" he said to thunderous applause.

Shamsher went on to slam Selangor DAP for retaining ties with Pas.

"Even when DAP severed all ties with Pas, it looks like Selangor DAP still can't forget its old lover. Why does DAP still want to sleep with Pas after a divorce?"

On the party's election process, incumbent state committee member R.S.N. Rayer said party leaders competing directly for political office only worked in countries like the United States.

"In Malaysia, we have parliamentary democracy and practice the first-past-the-post system. Only Parliament can limit the tenure of the chief minister."

Delegate K. Kristnan, of DAP Datuk Keramat branch, called on the state committee to limit the tenure of the chief minister to two terms.

Kristnan went on to rap the state government for supporting behaviour they had previously objected to, alluding to excess development in the state.

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"If we want to leave Selangor, we can. But it will be a grave injustice to the people."

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