How effective will Teoh be from the inside, ask civil groups

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There is doubt if Roger Teoh can continue to criticise the Penang Transport Master Plan after his return to the DAP.

GEORGE TOWN: Penang Transport Master Plan (PTMP) critic Roger Teoh may be going back to the DAP after being assured of “access” to the state government to air his views, but some in civil society are wondering if it will be that easy.

“Can Roger Teoh still speak out? Once you are inside, can you still voice your concerns?” asked Citizens Awareness Chant group (Chant) adviser Yan Lee.

Yan pointed out ordinary citizens could take their views on transport issues to the Penang Transport Council, but the council could take a vote and reject them.

He also cited what had happened to former Penang Island City councillor Dr Lim Mah Hui who suffered a backlash after his strong criticisms of the PTMP.

Last year, Lim, a member of Penang Forum, sent a letter to Unesco asking for the UN body to assess the impact of the proposed PTMP. George Town is a Unesco World Heritage Site.

His letter which highlighted how the PTMP could potentially impact the value of the George Town world heritage properties caused an outcry in the state administration with Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng describing the act as a “stab in the back”.

Lim, who was appointed to the council from 2011 until last year, declined renomination this year.

And that is why Yan believes that public forums were still the way to go to allow everyone space to have their say.
“For starters, the Penang Transport Council meetings should be open to the public. Proposals by NGOs like Penang Forum and Teoh should be answered openly.

“That is CAT (competency, accountability and transparency),” Yan told FMT.

Lim, meanwhile, wished Teoh well.

“…wish (him) best of luck and to persevere in his quest for competency, accountability and transparency,” he said in a text message to FMT.

FMT reported yesterday that Teoh had withdrawn his resignation from DAP after “constructive talks with the Penang government’s top leadership”.

Teoh said he was going back to the party after he was assured “a direct channel” to air his criticism on the transport master plan.

Teoh quit DAP three weeks ago after complaining that the state government and party did not listen to his views on the PTMP, adding it took the party less than 24 hours to confirm his resignation.

The PhD student in transport studies at the Imperial College in London had argued that the master plan would fail unless it was fully based on the development of public transport.

He wrote several articles openly criticising the PTMP before and after he announced he was quitting the party.

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Question

1/10

Your score

0

You Scored a Fair

6/10

Start another quiz

Are You a Real Civil War Buff?

By law, an African American buyer has first priority on any land on which a Civil War Battle was fought.

The Union confiscated Robert E. Lee’s land and turned it into what is now Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1861, the University of Mississippi had to close after all but four of their students died in the Civil War.

In 1863, the Union built government-sanctioned brothels to slow the spread of VD among soldiers.

The helmets worn by Union soldiers during the Civil War bore President Lincoln’s iconic stovepipe hat.
A Civil War prison camp in New York let people watch prisoners for 15¢ admission and even sold concessions.

Every time the Union liberated a plantation they would hold a drinking party with the freed slaves.

When the Civil War began, Robert E. Lee didn't own slaves but Ulysses S. Grant did.

Despite requests, Minnesota still refuses to return the flag of the 28th Virginia captured at Gettysburg.

There are still more than 200 Union corpses in the Cumberland River that were killed in the Battle of Dover.

**TRUE**

**FALSE**

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