

Appointment of Chinese aides hailed

KUALA LUMPUR: The MCA welcomes Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's move in appointing two Chinese aides as it will enable him to keep abreast with the different perspectives presented by the Chinese media.

Party vice-president Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn said the move was good as the translation of news from Chinese newspapers would be easier.

He also said efforts by the

party to ensure the Chinese supported the Government was evident.

"The record speaks for itself," he said, adding that the party would continue working with Barisan Nasional and ensure views from various communities are heard.

Newspapers have reported that Dr Mahathir would appoint two Chinese — a political and a press secretary — to give him a better understanding of Chinese

sentiments.

There has been no official announcement of the two appointees so far.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu also praised the appointments.

"It will allow Dr Mahathir to have a better understanding of the views of the Chinese and take the necessary action."

PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor described the appointments as a move to improve Dr Mahathir's image

within the community.

Fadzil claimed that Chinese support for Barisan Nasional had eroded.

"A good example was the Lunas by-election where the Chinese decided to vote for the Opposition."

He said this showed that Dr Mahathir had not listened to the "wishes and aspirations" of the Chinese.

Fadzil said that in contrast the Chinese had backed Barisan Nasional in the 1999 general elections.