

## **MCA man to be sworn in as Johor exco?**

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A MCA member is expected to be sworn in as a state cabinet member in Johor tomorrow, despite the party's directive not to accept any government positions.

According to Sin Chew Daily, Pulai Sebatang state assemblyperson Tee Siew Keong (right) has been shortlisted as a state cabinet member in charge of the tourism portfolio.

The swearing-in ceremony will take place tomorrow. It is uncertain if Tee will take up the position.

In 2011, MCA delegates had passed a resolution during an EGM vowing not to accept any government positions should the party fail to improve in their performance during the 13th general election.

As predicted by many pundits, MCA won far less seats this time round, securing seven Parliamentary and 10 state seats, down from 15 Parliamentary and 32 state seats won in 2008.

### Palace wants racial harmony

It is believed that in the case of Johor, MCA leaders may be compelled to forgo their pledge in 2011 because the Johor Sultan had expressed his wish to see Chinese representation in the state cabinet.

The Sultan's position was conveyed to the incoming Johor Menteri Besar Khaled Nordin on May 8, who said that the palace wants to see racial harmony in the state.

Of 16 state seats contested in Johor, MCA won only two seats. Tee is expected to be among several new faces joining the state cabinet.

If Tee ends up in the Johor state cabinet, it will likely cause the MCA leadership, in particular its president Dr Chua Soi Lek, much embarrassment for reneging their promise.

Moreover, Tee is widely seen to be a staunch supporter of Chua.

Attempts were made to contact Khaled and Tee for comments but there was no

reply.

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