

Guilds urge MCA to take up gov't posts

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Two of Malaysia's biggest Chinese groups want the MCA to rescind its decision not to be part of the federal cabinet or decline any government positions in order to safeguard the community's interests.

They are the Federation of Chinese Associations, an umbrella body for Chinese guilds, and Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM), the umbrella body for Chinese businesses.

This was communicated to MCA during the party's closed-door dialogue session with 58 Chinese NGOs today to source feedback on the party's transformation plan.

MCA deputy president Liow Tiong Lai, who chaired the session, said the two groups hope the party would be able to raise problems faced by the Chinese community in the cabinet.

"The Chinese community still have expectations on MCA. They hope that we can help them as a member of the ruling party," Liow said.

'They want us in BN'

He did not respond to queries on whether the remaining 56 groups shared the sentiments of ACCCIM and the Federation of Chinese Associations.

Liow said some of the feedback sourced from the 58 groups concurred with that of the party's grassroots. These opinions would be compiled in the party's "transformation blueprint".

"We will table the blueprint during the year-end annual general meeting. Hopefully it will be passed," he added.

Liow also said that none of the groups recommended that MCA leaves the BN coalition.

Liow is the head of the party's special taskforce that is looking into ways to transform the party. The taskforce began its work in June and has conducted roadshows and overseas study tours.

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