

Najib to decide time for MCA to rejoin cabinet
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today stated he will decide the right time for MCA to rejoin cabinet, as the party being part and parcel of BN, it cannot continue to operate outside of the government.

"I welcome MCA to join the government and cabinet, but let me decide on the details and timing," he told the 3,000-strong crowd comprising MCA members and leaders of Chinese NGOs and guilds at the MCA unity event in Setapak.

"If MCA talks about becoming stronger, then it has to be inside the government. Together we chart the future of Malaysia and devise policies that will be fair to all communities.

"If the Chinese community needs us to look at some of our policies, needs us to make adjustments and if the request is fair, then, certainly, we will give serious consideration to MCA," he said.

Najib cautioned, however, saying as a father of 13 children, he must listen to the voices and views of all of them, in reference the various BN coalition members.

MCA had earlier decided to shun any government posts after a large shift in the Chinese community's support away from the party resulted in its abysmal performance in the last general election.

However, the decision was later reversed during an extraordinary general meeting last February.

"I am sorry to say, the leadership's challenge over the years contribute to the weakening of MCA. If MCA wants to revive, it must start from (rebuilding) unity within the party," the premier said.

We'll try to eliminate rent-seeking

MCA has reached the point where this may be its last call to strike back as the party cannot afford to perform worse than the last general election, warned Najib.

According to Najib, BN's policies have ensured peace, stability, harmony and fair share of opportunity which resulted in most Chinese being relatively successful.

He pointed out many of the top 40 richest Malaysians have gained from government's concessions.

"I know some of you may not happy how we implemented New Economic Policy and affirmative action.

"This, we admit we are not perfect, we need to make adjustment and we are doing it now, for instant, we help the bumiputera based on merit, and we tried to eliminate rent-seeking," he said.

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