

**Gerakan non-committal on future Cabinet representation**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**September 10, 2011**  
**By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal**

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 10 — Gerakan is non-committal about following the MCA's path and stay out of the Cabinet should it fare worse in the next general election, with the party president saying today that any such move would "depend" on circumstances.

Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon also alluded that if his party failed to secure any seats in the upcoming polls, that would signal the party's ultimate defeat.

"Well, we will have to come to the bridge, we will see whether we will have to cross it or not, depends on the circumstances at the time.

"I'm not saying yes, I'm saying if we are wiped out, that's it. It depends on what happens after that," he told reporters here today.

Koh (picture) was responding to comments made by MCA leaders recently who have vowed to stay out of Cabinet if it suffered a worse electoral defeat in the next general election, and that it would do so out of respect for the Chinese community.

"If we cannot secure any parliamentary or state seat, we are out. That's very simple, straightforward, like in Penang.

"If we win zero seats, what do you think we should do? It's obvious isn't it?" Koh said.

Senior Umno minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz said recently that it would be unfair to "punish" the Chinese if they chose not to vote for Barisan Nasional's (BN) Chinese-centric parties like the MCA or Gerakan.

The influential Umno leader told The Malaysian Insider that even if the MCA failed to secure a single parliamentary seat in the coming polls, it should still be given posts in the BN government to ensure that all races are well represented.

Nazri was recalling a pledge made by MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek several months ago when the former Cabinet minister said he would pull his party from the government if it performs worse than it did in Election 2008.

Dr Chua first mooted the idea when he urged the Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) not to join the Sarawak Cabinet after it won only six of the 19 seats it contested in the April 16 state polls.

He later said the MCA would do the same, using the 2008 results as its benchmark. Should MCA fail to win at least 15 parliamentary and 31 state seats, pledged Dr Chua, the party will not accept any Cabinet posts in the next government.

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