

Next GE will be all-out 'cyber war', Liow warns MCA Youth
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By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1 — The battlefield for the next general election will be an all-out war in cyber space, Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai warned MCA Youth leaders today.

The MCA deputy president reminded the party's Youth wing that it needed to embark on a more aggressive online campaign, and that the party's dismissal of the influence of blogs and the Internet in the last general election had contributed to the MCA's loss of parliamentary and state seats.

Liow speaks to the press after opening the MCA Youth assembly on October 1, 2011. — Picture by Jack Ooi

"To stop opposition parties to continue deceiving the people, efforts for an all-out war must begin now. I call on all Youth members to prepare for cyber war.

"We understand that blogs were a main publicity media in the last general election while Facebook and Twitter are expected to become the primary media in the coming general election. MCA candidates cannot neglect the Internet war in the coming general election," he said at the MCA Youth annual general assembly.

Liow stressed that the upcoming national polls will determine MCA's "life or death."

MCA suffered its worst electoral defeat during the 2008 general elections where it lost 25 of the 40 federal and 59 of the 90 state seats it contested.

The MCA has seen Chinese support continue to shrink in recent by-elections, as some analyses have found that the Tenang polls held earlier this year saw just 18 per cent of Chinese voting for BN.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak has assumed the charge for Chinese votes, spending last weekend dishing out RM15 million to Chinese schools and exempting a Community Chest project headed by Chinese tycoons from tax to help it channel RM100 million a year into vernacular education.

Liow admitted that morale among MCA members had been affected due to the results of the last general election, but said that they needed to "overcome" this hurdle.

"Our opponent is not as strong as you think. If we move with one mind and heart, we do not need to fear anyone. Remember, offence is the best defence."

Liow also challenged the DAP to leave PR, claiming that despite its objections, PR partner PAS seems adamant in implementing the hudud law.

"(Datuk) Nik Abdul Aziz (Nik Mat) has said that if DAP opposes hudud law, it can leave Pakatan Rakyat. Its leader (Datuk Seri) Anwar Ibrahim also supports hudud law in Kelantan. Why then does the DAP not dare to defend its position (against hudud law) and leave Pakatan Rakyat?" asked the MCA leader.

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