

Appease Chinese to keep MCA in government, Soi Lek tells BN
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SEREMBAN, Oct 16 — Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek reminded MCA's Barisan Nasional (BN) partners today that their failure to appease the Chinese community would result in MCA's absence from Cabinet.

Reiterating his party's pledge to reject Cabinet posts should it fare poorly in the coming polls, the MCA president insisted the decision was not tantamount to a threat to the community.

Instead, Dr Chua said the "threat" was aimed more at party members to remind all leaders of the importance of standing united to ensure MCA's success in the polls.

"At the same time, BN must be aware that if the government fails to fulfil the hopes of the Chinese community, MCA will not obtain support and this will deny MCA representation in the government," he said in his speech at the Negri Sembilan BN convention here this morning.

MCA has been repeatedly criticised for the decision made by its presidential council to reject all Cabinet posts should the party perform 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 only won 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.

But Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz accused Dr Chua of threatening the Chinese community, adding that it was unlikely that BN would allow a single communal government without any Chinese representatives.

Dr Chua, however, indicated today that MCA's intention was not to herald the formation of a single communal government.

"We have informed the people that it is unhealthy in a multiracial country like Malaysia for the federal and state governments to be represented by only one racial group.

"What we are asking for is to share the glory together," he said to cheers from the crowd.

He added that if a DAP victory could solve the current crisis faced by the Chinese community, MCA would not envy its rival's achievements.

"Seeing how they keep attacking and belittling MCA, DAP has projected themselves as 'political supermen' who can resolve all issues faced by the Chinese," he said.

"However, their performance in all PR states shows that in politics, there is no such thing as a 'superman'," he added, prompting laughter from the audience.

"We don't deny that we have not had a good history, but today's MCA leadership should be given a chance to prove their abilities."

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