

**Solely Chinese reform bid will shortchange community, says MCA veep**  
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**By Yow Hong Chieh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 18 — Any attempt by the Chinese to lead change in Malaysia will lead to a two-race system in which the community will be marginalised, an MCA vice-president said today.

Calling this the “Chinese dilemma”, Gan Ping Sieu said any attempt by Chinese voters to reform the political system would end in failure as the country was not yet ready for any one community to drive such a shift.

He noted that many constituencies were largely mono-racial, and this would cause the Chinese to be “grossly under-represented” in lawmaking bodies, leading to a two-race system rather than a two-party one with strong checks and balances.

“Some places will always be Kampung Melayu and some places will always be Kampung Baru Cina. This will not change anytime soon...,” he said at a session of the “Malaysian Chinese at the Political Crossroads” conference here.

“Any change, any reform from this country cannot be driven by one particular community. If it is driven exclusively by DAP or the Chinese community, it (the system) is going to break.”

Gan (picture), who is also deputy youth and sports minister, also claimed the current setup was not a two-party system but one with three parties comprising Barisan Nasional (BN), the DAP and PKR, and finally PAS on its own.

This was because Islamist PAS had its own agenda to pursue a “theocratic state” and was therefore ideologically incompatible with both its partners in Pakatan Rakyat (PR), he said.

“Don’t rule out the possibility that one day PAS will work with Umno or any other party (to realise their “theocratic” ambitions),” he warned.

PR also lacked inclusive policies that celebrated Malaysia’s racial and cultural diversity, Gan said, which meant the opposition pact would not succeed in effecting change through the politics of consensus, unlike BN.

DAP Wanita chief Chong Eng, however, disagreed that there was a “Chinese dilemma”, pointing out that the demand for just policies and a more transparent government was universal.

She pointed out that the Indians too had swung from BN to the opposition in the last election which, she said, was proof that all races wanted change, not just the Chinese.

“This trend of change will continue and this is not just the Chinese. It is among all races, even the Malays,” she said.

“We just want fair policies, policies that are fair to everyone... You have to deliver to them.

And a two-coalition system is the solution.”

Chong said that while the situation was not perfect, it was better compared to the last five decades of “Umno hegemony” as BN now had to be more responsive to all communities, even the Orang Asli.

She added that the dilemma was not for the Chinese but the MCA, which must decide if it will truly deliver what the community wants.

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