

Let MCA stay in government, Chinese voters urged
Malaysian Insider
April 30, 2013
By Debra Chong

KUALA LUMPUR, April 30 — Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai pleaded with Chinese voters today to back the MCA in the May 5 polls so the party can remain in government and be the voice for the minority race.

Massive crowds of Chinese Malaysians have been packing the public rallies nationwide held by the secular DAP, one-third of the opposition Pakatan Rakyat (PR) seen as the main rival to the ruling Barisan Nasional's (BN) Sino party, including the mega ceramah at the private Han Chiang College in Penang last night where organisers say some 70,000 people attended.

"MCA is naturally concern [sic] about our success or failure in this election, but we are more concern [sic] for the Chinese community because if we lose, they will also lose their voice in government.

"MCA has always been entrusted with looking after and defending Chinese rights, thus, we believe that if we are given the mandate, MCA will work harder and produce better results," Liow (picture), who is MCA deputy president, said in a statement.

According to the caretaker health minister, the Malays and Indians are back with the BN coalition.

coalition, was nearly decimated in the 12th general election, nabbing only 15 parliamentary seats out of a total 40 nationwide with seven in Johor, its southern stronghold on the peninsula.

Its president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek had declared two years ago that the MCA will not accept any Cabinet positions if the party obtains fewer than the existing 15 seats.

Liow said today that it was due to his party's efforts over the past four years that the Najib administration has become more aware of the Chinese electorate's unhappiness and created a number of government policy changes to boost the community's prospects.

"Our transformation programmes have been effective as the prime minister now hears the voice of the Chinese community more clearly, and is thus able to guarantee them a better and stronger future," he said.

Wielding the religious card, Liow warned the Chinese that they stood to lose their secular lifestyle if they voted PR into government as the Islamist PAS "is now the real boss of Pakatan, and in time the Chinese will lose their secular way of life and security, changing our nation for the worse".

Political observers have said that most of the Chinese votes are in the bag for PR, continuing the avalanche of support that swept the DAP and its allies PKR and PAS to victory and power in five states in Election 2008.

Hudud, the strict Islamic criminal code that prescribes chopping off hands as punishment for crimes like theft, appears to no longer scare the Chinese voters due to the massive

awareness campaign mounted by PAS that non-Muslims were not bound by Muslim laws.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/let-mca-stay-in-government-chinese-voters-urged/>