

## **MCA reps must accept posts**

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IPOH: MEMBERS of parliament and assemblymen from MCA, who were voted in by the people in the just-concluded 13th General Election, should accept state and federal posts offered to them.

State MCA deputy secretary Datuk Lee Kon Yin said by refusing to accept the posts, it would render the elected MPs and assemblymen powerless in many issues, especially when attending to the people's grouses.

"It is only right for MCA to have its own representation in the government, both at the state and federal levels.

"After all, we have people who were voted in by the electorate to serve them and we should serve them as best as possible. To do that, we need to be in power," he said.

Lee, who heads the Perak MCA Public Services and Complaints Bureau, said that with limited power, there is little one can do to help the people.

"Things are difficult now. I can only listen to them (the complainants). My hands are tied."

"No doubt, I can get other elected representatives from BN to help out, but it will not be as convenient as going through my own party channel," he said.

He was responding to MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek's insistence that the party remain firm on not accepting any government posts.

MCA, he said, would stand by this decision unless an emergency general meeting is held and its members agree to rescind the decision.

The party, in its last year's annual general meeting, passed a resolution that it would decline all government posts if it performed worse in the recent elections.

Meanwhile, Kota Darulaman MCA division secretary Loh Gim Hooi said he was concerned that the views of the community would not be properly conveyed to the government if there was no Chinese representation in government and political posts.

He said that while he respected his party leadership's stand not to accept any government posts, he feared that this would result in MCA failing to meet the needs of the community.

"I also know the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Najib Razak) would never neglect the Chinese community but I am worried the needs of the community would not be fully met," he said.

Johor Baru MCA complaints bureau chairman John Cheah, meanwhile, noted that the party had also faced many challenges in the past, only to grow stronger after overcoming the odds.

"For MCA to remain relevant in the future, a Chinese politician must be in the cabinet," said Cheah, who is also MCA Taman Maju Jaya branch chairman.

Cheah said he would not mind waiting until after the MCA party elections before a decision was made on its representation in the cabinet as he also does not want to undermine the party president.

"At the same time, I feel that the 1Malaysia concept is the way to show youths the way forward and we can only do that if there are MCA representatives in the cabinet.

"I know there are still Chinese voters who had cast their votes for BN, and since BN has won, there has to be an MCA representative for these voters," he said.

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