

MCA vice-president says it is tough to merge with multi-racial parties
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By Muzliza Mustafa

A merger with multi-racial component parties will be tough for the MCA, according to its vice-president Gan Ping Sieu (picture).

He said MCA could not ask Gerakan and SUPP to dump their non-chinese members.

"We cannot ask for Gerakan and SUPP to forgo their members, so MCA will be the one that has to make changes in the party," he said.

He said the party's older members may fight the idea but the younger generation would welcome the move.

"They (young generation) believe that we have to move away from being a race based party and be more open in accepting members from other races," said Gan.

He said although MCA has one million members, the party can no longer be proud of it.

"The numbers are no longer an asset to the party because only a quarter of them are fighters," said Gan, adding that he favoured a merger.

"It is not going to be easy to convince the members but time has changed," he said.

Gan was speaking with reporters with regards to Gerakan acting president Datuk Chang Ko Youn's statement today that he had a number of "informal talks" with MCA and SUPP presidents Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek and Datuk Seri Peter Chin Ka Fui.

He said they might agree over the merger now but would change their minds after electing new leaders.

Chang had observed that in the past the parties had discussed the possibility but nothing came of it.- July 21, 2013.

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