

MCA's Decision To Reaccept Government Post Apt - Analysts
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- The decision of the MCA Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to accept appointments to government posts at all levels is apt, to bring back the confidence of the Chinese community in the party.

Political analysts saw the decision, which was arrived at through the votes of almost all the 1,982 delegates at the meeting Sunday, as an MCA paradigm shift for the continued survival of the component of Barisan Nasional (BN), after its debilitating loss in the 13th general election (GE13).

Only five protests were recorded during the meeting while four declined to vote, to amend the resolution which was decided at the MCA general meeting in 2011 to decline any government posts if it failed in the GE13.

Political analyst and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Geostrategist, Dr Azmi Hassan said the move could not be regarded as making a 'U-turn' as it was made by the new leadership lineup of the party.

"MCA must have a voice in the Cabinet, because without the party representation there, their 'hands are tied'. Definitely, they need a voice in the Cabinet," he said when contacted by Bernama here, Monday.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Social Science Study Centre deputy dean Dr Sivamurugan Pandian also admitted the focus now was how the resolution could be applied in the middle of an already running national government administration.

"The previous resolution (2011) resulted in posts which were traditionally held by leaders from MCA being filled by the leaders of other parties.

"Will there be a Cabinet reshuffle or we will see an expansion of posts in the Cabinet? This is what we are waiting for," he said.

Department of Nationhood and Civilization Studies, Faculty of Human Ecology, Universiti Putra Malaysia Dr Ahmad Tarmizi Talib said the decision was appropriate because it opened the opportunity to the party to be more committed in serving the people.

He added, the past decision by MCA against accepting posts in the government was not a smart move, describing it as having backfired.

"They (MCA) should have still served the people despite losing, and not refuse to accept or reject any government posts because the longer they did not serve, the further the people will drift away from them.

"As such, the decision to reaccept government posts is apt because there are still people who support them. If they still stick by the previous decision, who will want to serve for their supporters?" he said.

A similar view was also given by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) senior lecturer Dr Jeniri Amir who

regarded the decision made by the latest MCA leaders as the 'best move' and essential to ensure their future, seeing not much could be done by MCA if it was outside the Cabinet.

"This action will indirectly give confidence to the Chinese community to support BN again because through the move, MCA will be able to voice the needs and problems of the Chinese community for effective settlements.

"We fervently hope MCA will really endeavour to fight for the Chinese community," he said.

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