

**Utusan doubts Chinese support returning to MCA, Gerakan
Malaysian Insider
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Umno mouthpiece Utusan Malaysia today questioned the ability of MCA and Gerakan to attract support from the Chinese after their return to the cabinet.

Awang Selamat, the pseudonym for the newspaper's editors, said there was no indication that Chinese support was returning to Barisan Nasional (BN) and the parties would have to redouble their efforts to attract support for BN.

Awang Selamat said both should stop depending on Malay votes and start working the Chinese ground, particularly the Chinese majority areas to win support.

"That is the test to determine their real strength. The question is, can MCA and Gerakan do this, given that the majority of the Chinese show no indication that they will now support BN.

"Awang does not want to hope, but is waiting in anticipation for both parties to create an impact in terms of serving the country," Awang said in the papers weekend edition Mingguan Malaysia.

He urged the parties, especially MCA, not to give up before battling it out under the BN flag.

"So far, MCA's performance has been lacklustre, having lost in the Kajang by-election while Gerakan was able to regain new confidence after winning Teluk Intan," said Awang.

The paper endorsed the induction of the five MCA leaders and one Gerakan leader to the cabinet, despite criticism of a bloated cabinet.

"With the return of the two parties, it reflects a more multiracial cabinet which is in line with BN's tradition of sharing power that was practised even before independence.

"It is clear that the prime minister is committed to the spirit of cooperation between races."

Datuk Seri Najib Razak appointed Gerakan president Datuk Mah Siew Keong as minister in the prime minister's department, as promised during the campaign for the May 31 Teluk Intan by-election.

He also gave his BN senior Chinese partner, MCA, two ministerial and three deputy minister's posts.

MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai is now Transport Minister, while his deputy Datuk Wee Ka Siong was made minister in the prime minister's department.

The party's three vice-presidents – Datuk Lee Chee Leong, Datuk Chua Tee Yong and Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun – were appointed deputy ministers to the International Trade and Industry; Finance; and Women, Family and Community Development ministries respectively.

With the addition of Mah and Wee, the Prime Minister's Department now boasts 10 ministers, leading observers to question their roles and the need for such a large number of ministers in one department.

Political analysts also said the expanded cabinet had more to do with political largesse than the need to drive reforms.

They expressed concern that Najib's team, which at 35 is even bigger than his predecessor Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's 32-member cabinet, will slow down reforms that were needed to drive the country forward. – June 29, 2014.

- See more at:
<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/utusan-doubts-chinese-support-returning-to-mca-gerakan#sthash.Im0GDyb8.dpuf>

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