

MCA not a silent party in BN, says Najib
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By Eileen Ng

MCA is not a silent party in Barisan Nasional, said its chairman, Datuk Seri Najib Razak, defending the senior Chinese party which has been repeatedly accused by its critics of being weak and unable to check its more strident BN partner Umno.

Instead, Najib said MCA has been consistently giving its views on a range of national issues during both Cabinet and BN meetings.

"MCA has sometimes been painted as a party that is not vocal. MCA is not a silent party of BN. I can vouch for that.

"Whatever the issue, whether it is the yellow or 'red shirt' shirt demonstrations, the Low Yat incident or 1MDB, MCA always give their views and I respect their views," he said, listing the hot-button issues in his speech at the party's 62nd annual general assembly.

MCA is a senior partner in the ruling BN coalition but its poor performance at the 2008 and 2013 general elections has left the party struggling to regain support.

Critics have accused the party of being unable to rein in Umno, whose leaders at times were said to have made racially charged statements.

Najib today praised MCA for working within the proper channels, saying that utilising the internal systems earned more respect and were more effective than "shouting outside".

But he also told the party that it has to play its part in regaining back more Chinese support if it wanted more say at the federal level.

"You show support, we have no problems, but you must come forward to show support, otherwise I get hit.

"They'll say you give so many things, they are not supporting you. It's very difficult for me. So please, give their support and you can achieve even more, and we can do even more together," he said.

He said BN despite being far from perfect was still a far better alternative for Malaysia, adding that by believing in the coalition, he would be able to do more for the Chinese.

"I need the support of the Chinese for BN, to be our mainstream partners in the political, economic and social development of this country.

"If we are together, we can achieve greater things for Malaysia," he added. – October 11, 2015.

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