



HISTORY MADE IN HISTORICAL CITY MALACCA!

4 reps **drop** post-Chap Goh Mei & pre-Valentine bombshell on **DAP**

If DAP thought snaring former Law Minister Dato' Seri Zaid Ibrahim was a big fish, they certainly let their own members (bigger fishes) slip by when on 12 Feb 2017, four elected representatives in Malacca (Kota Melaka MP Sim Tong Him; Duyong ADUN Goh Leong San, Kesidang ADUN Chin Choong Seong and Bachang ADUN Lim Jak Wong) jointly announced their departure from DAP citing:

THE FOUR – who they are



Bachang assemblyman Lim Jak Wong
> won the seat in an upset victory against then state Gerakan chief Datuk Chua Peng Song in the 1999 general election.
> was the secretary to Goh when both stepped down together in 2013, accusing other DAP assemblymen of abusing state party funds.

Kota Melaka MP Sim Tong Him
> suspended for a year with Goh Leong San on Feb 7, 2016, by DAP's disciplinary committee for smearing the party's name through a lawsuit against a fellow party member.

Duyong assemblyman Goh Leong San
> former state DAP party chief, who held the post uncontested for over a decade before being ousted by Bandar Hilir assemblyman Toy Kok Kiew in December 2015.
> stepped down as state Opposition leader in 2013, claiming that it was in protest of an abuse of state party funds by DAP assemblymen.

Kesidang assemblyman Chin Choong Seong
> an ally of Goh and Lim, who are seen to be friendly towards Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron.
> backed Goh when he stepped down in 2013.
> a lawyer with the Malaysian Bar.

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Remorseful for having betrayed voters and vocal during ceramah to get people to support PAS as a moderate party during GE13 - We have an obligation to the Chinese community



No right stewardship as DAP continued to work with Pakatan Rakyat or Pakatan Harapan whose parties have certain agendas



Straying for its core objectives



Teaming up with former arch nemesis Tun Dr Mahathir Mohammad

It's bad enough that the Opposition is in complete disarray with BFF-turn-foe DAP vs PAS, or PAS vs Amanah and PKR trying to be the glue-cum-mediator. But rather than containing the fallout from the quartet's exit given speculation that GE14 will be held this year, DAP big wigs mire in slugfest. Central Executive Committee (CEC) Liew Chin Tong claimed losing in the DAP polls in Nov 2015 caused the quadruple desertion. However, he was immediately contradicted by fellow CEC member Dato' Teng Chang Khim: "it is highly inappropriate (for Liew) to say they left the party after losing in the party elections."

There is no need to wait more than a year to crash the Rocket if indeed the 4 were displeased with the party results. Clearly, deeper issues led to their resignations.

Opposition can't muster either Chinese or Malay ballot

PKR President Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Aziz conceded that "Pakatan Harapan deems the support of Chinese & non-Malay voters crucial to win GE14. Losing grip on Chinese votes, even the clout of Dr Mahathir, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Zaid cannot corral in Malay voters as the masses are tired with the Opposition's games. Pakatan Harapan were dealt a double blow when PAS President Dato' Seri Hadi Awang openly dictated the hardline party would not partner with PPBM: "we will not work with anyone who has ties with DAP and Amanah."

Lim Kit Siang and son Guan Eng sharing the same stage with Dr Mahathir who once had them detained under ISA; PKR and Dr Mahathir in warm embrace where the latter even attended Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim's appeal hearing although Anwar was initially jailed subsequent to Dr Mahathir sacking him as Deputy Prime Minister; Such expedient alliance unmask the capital "P in "Politics" living up the adage, "no permanent friends or enemies in politics, but just permanent self-interests."

The Party chief writes ...

Fair is fowl, Foul isn't fair

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The *Guardian's* pun-word-play from Shakespeare's *Macbeth* evinces how the Opposition cocked-up the first day of Chinese New Year. Although the Rooster from the Lunar calendar is endowed with values of consistency, caring and sharing, fearlessness to defend its young, energy, the Opposition's foul play caused the Rooster which was set to spread its wings to have a chicken-run instead.

As common practice in any lion dance, the crew will pause momentarily to crouch and peel the mandarin orange and pomelo to be presented to the host or guest as a symbol of honour and to spread blessings and goodwill. Such moves require concentration so that the citrus are blade-carved neatly to resemble a five-petal flower, and awithin a rapid timespan amidst clanging cymbals, drum beats and a boisterous audience.

Pakatan state governments in Penang and Selangor also host CNY Open Houses. Surely, the likes of Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng who is a Chinese are aware of this practice. Hence, for the Opposition to egg on politicking during CNY when benevolence and festivities are expected to reign, is shameful. Spinning the "lion" crouch-to-peel as defiance of refusing to perform for Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak is so lame and reveals how clueless the Opposition is regarding Chinese customs. If the Opposition sees itself as public servants, the least they could do is to educate themselves on Chinese traditions.

Don't Hen-Peck Lion Dance Performers



Photos from MCA Headquarters' Kaigong ceremony show the lion dance performers gearing to crouch and peel the prepared fruits

While it appears to be chicken-feed for the Opposition to squawk at anything involving BN, it should spare some compassion for the performers who are apolitical and train for hours daily and for years to hone and present their skills and agility. No contracted ensemble will be foolish so as to be rude towards their host, what more the Prime Minister, lest they want to self-sabotage their own careers for

future events and among international-level lion dance associations and competitions.

Pakatan allies and supporters, do take note that the 15-member Malaysia Gai Feng Lion & Dragon Dance Athletic Association which performed at the Gerakan Open House felt that they were unjustly wronged and became the target of irresponsible "politicians" and bloggers who have tarnished their image (*The Star*, 2 Feb 2017).

xin nián kuài lè

No cockfighting but booster Rooster to announce the arrival of the Spring Festival, ok?



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Senator Dato' Chai Kim Sen
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China FDI adds nutrients to Malaysian rice bowls



Rather than welcoming China's investments as with FDI from any other nation, race-based PPBM Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin disparaged that they "rob the rice bowls of Malaysians." His insults are political motivated to undermine the strategic partnership between Malaysia and China. If this statement is correct, why did he not admonish China when he was still in BN?

Muhyiddin contradicts himself

The Opposition in particular DAP had misleadingly accused Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak's success in securing RM144billion in China investments as "selling out" the country. But when Muhyiddin was Deputy Prime Minister, he too through MCAs' arrangement, led a trade delegation to China in early December 2014 to entice Chinese investors. The Opposition should thus translate the DPM's trade mission then as the "Muhyiddin selling out the nation."

When he was in government, Muhyiddin actively attracted FDI from the United Kingdom and other nations. Thus, UK, the former coloniser of Malaya, is not robbing our Independence through trade but China's investments which continues 600 years of international diplomacy will strangle the livelihoods of Malaysians? Sadly, to score political mileage, Muhyiddin, the former DPM of the multiracial BN coalition whips up the racial card for his newly formed ethnic-centric PPBM.



Opposition allies yet to disagree with Muhyiddin



Could the muted silence from Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng be due his not daring to admit that the retrenchment wave which hit Penang in 2016 when several multinational companies pulled their investments out of Penang incurred close to 6,500 job losses which translates to at least 18,000 hungry mouths to feed (assuming that each newly unemployed worker has at least two dependents to feed)?

Hypocritical of Muhyiddin to not condemn Guan Eng's securing two China solar panel manufacturers for Penang ie Jinko Solar Co Ltd and JA Solar Malaysia Sdn Bhd which had invested RM363.21 million and RM300 million respectively in 2015 as "robbing the rice bowls of Penangites."

Likewise, Selangor PKR Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Azmin Ali in his speech at the "5th Malaysia-China Entrepreneur Conference" in 2016 conceded that "China's vibrant economic initiative will be pivotal in contributing towards greater economic integration in our region. Selangor aims to be an active partner in this."

PAS in Kelantan also encourages FDI from China

The PAS-led Kelantan state government warmly invited China entrepreneurs to invest in their state in 2015 with the purpose of aiding the most economic backward state in Peninsular Malaysia to promote development and boost economic growth. Why doesn't Muhyiddin pick a quarrel with PAS for "robbing the rice bowls of Kelantanese" with investors from China? If Muhyiddin feels so strongly against China FDI, he should immediately exhort his Pakatan partners to eject all China FDI currently in Kelantan, Penang and Selangor, and deport its expatriates.



No Correlation Between Road Accidents & Public Transport

It is irresponsible of DAP Kluang MP Liew Chin Tong to allude to the Transport Ministry through his Facebook on 2 Feb 2017 that "Petrol hike without accessible public transport will see more motorcycle deaths" by placing the issue of oil price revision as a life threatening issue. Road accident rates have nothing to do with a lack of or poor public transportation.

3 main factors contribute towards road accidents, namely:

- 1** Human factors emanating from the road user/drivers and their characteristics,
- 2** Environmental factors which are related directly to the road way/weather characteristics
- 3** Mechanical factors which are related to the vehicle characteristics.

Road accidents are often a sequence of causes such as distracted driving, speeding, drunk driving, careless or reckless driving/tailgating, vehicle defects,

foggy weather, driving under the influence of drugs, tire blow-out among several others. About 10% of those killed were inexperienced drivers.

The condition of roads (which comes under the purview of the Works Ministry) can be described as a major factor contributing to the crashes on our roads e.g. an absence or lack of guard rails, safety systems (emergency medical vehicle and shelter), parking facilities, junctions/intersections, pedestrian facilities (bridge/walkway), bicyclist facilities, motorcycle/tricycle facilities, bus way/bus priority lanes, lay-byes, street lights, and missing road markings on the road surface.

Road signs, bus shelters/stops and speed bumps/humps are other road furniture adequately needed in order to ensure good and smooth running of the transportation system for riders or drivers.

Accident Preventing Measures

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Transport has implemented measures to reduce traffic accidents such as the Awareness Automated Safety System (AWAS) and KEJARA Demerit Point System.

Development of public transport is underway. They include:

- upgrading of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system and extending its routes,
- building Mass Rapid Transit (MRT)
- upgrading the Keretapi Tanah Melayu (KTM) system.
- Works underway for the High Speed Rail linking Kuala Lumpur and Singapore within 90 minutes and East Coast Rail Line linking the East Coast to Kuala Lumpur



Dr Lim Lek Chai is the MCA Federal Territories Economic Bureau Chairman, and has more than 30 years experience in academia.

"Don't drink & drive, etc ..."

Based on the results of many road safety studies in southeast Asian nations, it can be inferred that "drinking and driving (DAD)", "taking medicine and driving (TMAD)" and "using a mobile phone (hands free) and driving (UMP(hf)AD)" are the most correlated risk factors for all the roads considered.



Other risk factors with a high level of correlation include:

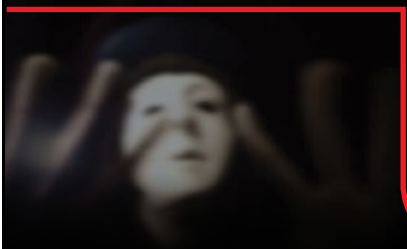
- "defective horns (DH)",
- "absence of rear view (AORV)",
- "bald tires (BaT)",
- "poorly maintained road (PMR)",
- "driving when tired (DWT)",
- "using a mobile phone (hands free) and driving (UMP(hf)AD)",
- "using a mobile phone (hand held) and driving (UMP(hh)AD)",
- "drinking and driving (DAD)", and,
- poor brakes/brake failure (PBF)".

Priority should be given to these factors so as to reduce the occurrence of accidents on these roads since these are the main causative factors.

Beware!

Other Richard Huckles & Selva Kumars Maybe on the Loose ...

Dap's Double Standards On Rape Prevention



Following news of Richard Huckle's and Selva Kumar Subbiah's largescale sexual assaults, Wanita MCA led by Datuk Heng Seai Kie is the first women's wing of any political party to intensify calls for the enforcement of the Sex Offenders Registry (SOR). Wanita MCA provided a list of recommendations to tackle sex offences, including implementation of the SOR, criminalising child sex grooming, implementing sex education in schools to identify tell-tale signs of sex grooming, restraining order against sex predators, disallowing sex offenders from being in the same enclosed premises with minors unless accompanied by appointed government officers, etc. Unfortunately, DAP Gelugor MP Ramkarpal Singh deems fit to berate Wanita MCA rather than supporting our call that overcoming sex assaults and paedophilia is apolitical and requires bipartisan efforts.

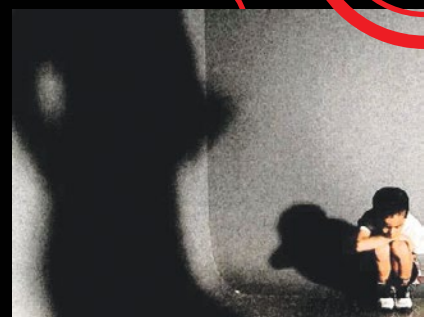
Although hasty to criticise Wanita MCA's suggestion of enacting double jeopardy laws against sex predators and paedophiles who commit offences overseas, he remained silent towards similar calls by Wanita PKR chairman Zuraida Kamaruddin to lock up Selva Kumar upon his return.

After Wanita MCA pointed out that DAP Damansara Utama ADUN Yeo Bee Yin advocated quicker implementation of the SOR, Ramkarpal, in typical DAP inconsistency then supported calls for the SOR, which thereby contradicts his earlier criticisms as wouldn't listing Selva Kumar in the SOR be "legally unconstitutional" as he is not reported to have committed any sex crime in Malaysia.

While the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development has reported to expedite the establishment of an SOR, DAP tries to claim credit from this. They rocket Wanita MCA's pressing efforts in pushing it through

Low rape statistics don't mirror reality

According to Home Ministry statistics, 37,263 rape cases were reported from 2000 till 2015 which translates to an average of 8 cases daily. Out of the total, only 16% were brought to court and 2.7% were found guilty. The 2.7% conviction rate is pathetic! The number of un-reported rape cases very likely is higher, as victims (males included) and their relatives fear stigmatization if they come forward. At the police station and while testifying in court, victims are made to relive their nightmare, while the defence will portray them as promiscuous, 'dressed-to-be-raped' and to be blamed. On incest, a parent is torn between the spouse and child and would not want the family to break apart. A foreign wife faces deportation if her abusive husband opts not to sponsor her anymore. Thus, the low statistics of rape do not mean a safer society but masks a worrying trend that victims are suffering in silence!



Even Dr M's Opposition allies dismiss his BR1M = BRIBERY RHETORIC

The volte-face by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohammad during the launching of Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) that it will retain the Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia should the Opposition win the next general election highlights his bid to recover whatever support it can muster following widespread rejection especially by aid recipients and even by his new-found Opposition allies against Dr Mahathir's labelling BR1M as "bribery for BN to win the elections."

Initiated by Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, the staggered delivery of BR1M assists lower income households who fulfil the criteria and achieves several socio-economic objectives: E.g:

- ✓ alleviate their financial burdens.
- ✓ reduce income inequality
- ✓ promote development in rural areas
- ✓ BR1M is a restructuring of the nation's tax and subsidy (systems) to directly benefit those in need.

How can BR1M be misconstrued as a bribe when it is a welfare programme which benefits all communities irrespective of ethnic or religious background or gender? BR1M is disbursed to qualified beneficiaries without knowing their voting preference on the ballot slip. BR1M recipients are not coerced into voting for BN. The evidence?

- BR1M might have been launched in 2012, but BN still failed to recapture Kelantan, Penang and Selangor in the 13 General Election on 5 May 2013.
- Second Finance Minister Dato' Seri Johari Abdul reported that of the total 7,280,340 applications for BR1M which were approved in 2016, Selangor recorded the highest number of recipients at 1,017,403 (*New Straits Times*, 18 Oct 2016).
- PPBM President Tan Sri Muhyiddin was Deputy Prime Minister in the same BN Cabinet when BR1M was formulated and he did not oppose BR1M
- Opposition controlled states especially Selangor and Penang have their own state-funded welfare programmes e.g. free water, but practising double standards, Dr Mahathir does not allude these as "Pakatan bribery."

The Opposition Supports Br1m

Exactly like BN elected reps and our service centres, Pakatan YB's and their service centres assist walk-in clients to complete/update and submit forms for state assistance programmes and federally-funded BR1M. Responses from politicians to Dr Mahathir's opinions indicate their disagreement with him. E.g.



Opposition Leader



PKR President cum Permatang Pauh MP Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah

BR1M is not a form of bribery. The qualified target group deserve to receive the monetary aid from the government. Such assistance should be given by the government to the people as it was their duty to help; and the people are qualified to get this help from the government and it should be given



Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin in 2012

BR1M recipients value this aid and do not feel this is not good. They express thanks and value it because it lessens their burden. This assistance has impacts. I don't think they will stomach the Opposition's allegations. The Opposition is worried about BR1M because this step can be seen as reducing their influence as it is our (BN) efforts to help the rakyat.



PKR Kelana Jaya MP Wong Chen

BR1M is quite a successful programme... with the handouts, the poor are ensured of some form of aid



Amanah Communications Director cum Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad

We want to raise the awareness and educate the people how effective BR1M can be to solve the economic problems faced by the rakyat

International examples

Programmes similar to BR1M are already implemented across the globe. If BR1M equals graft, this is tantamount to governments throughout the world attempting to alleviate poverty among its citizens as indulging in corruption!

Russia



Food Stamp Programme

The Russian government spent 240 billion rubles (US\$3.6 billion) on the food stamp programme to fight against poverty. An estimated 15~16 million Russians benefited from this programme.

SNAP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is a food programme for low income families and individuals. The recipient receives a debit card which is accepted by most grocery stores to purchase food.

Negative Income Tax

The Negative Income Tax is a programme to distribute money to low-income American citizens. The money will give to the person who owes no income tax for the year.

United States



China



China Medical Insurance Scheme

A medical insurance which covers almost everyone ie 17.7% of the population of urban workers, 14.5% of urban residents, 62.4% of the New Rural Cooperative, and 2% of other special units.

Rural Minimum Living Allowance System

A minimum living security for the poorest 80 million people in China whereby the amount varies in different regions, and the average is about 400 Yuan per month per person for the city poor and 216 Yuan per month per person for rural folk. Additionally, a certain amount of free/low-price water/electricity/gas/cable-TV are provided to the poor. In some places, even free TV sets or Internet services are provided.

Kartu Keluarga Sejahtera, Kartu Indonesia Sehat

2 programmes launched by the Indonesian government to improve the welfare of the underprivileged. With the programmes, the government can increase the dignity of the poor with protection and empowerment.

Indonesia



Thailand



One time payout

A Thai government-approved one-time payout programme to fight poverty, the government will disburse cash of between RM186 to RM434 to the poor. This has helped almost 7 million Thais who are severely poor.

The Rooster Spreads Its Wings at MCA's CNY Open House 2017

MCA continued with our party's tradition of hosting the annual Open House on the first day of the new Lunar New Year led by party President Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai and Deputy President Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong. Gracing the event was Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib bin Tun Razak and the First Lady of Malaysia Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

Other dignitaries present were MIC President Dato' Seri Dr Subramaniam, Gerakan President Dato' Seri Mah Siew Kiong, Minister of International Trade and Industry Dato' Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of Federal Territory Dato' Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, other leaders of BN component parties, MCA veterans, leaders of the Chinese guilds and associations and religious bodies, heads of missions from the diplomatic corp and media personnel.

Festivities encompassed Wisma MCA as early comers witnessed lion dancers performing stunts on poles while Chai Shen Dao gave out chocolates. Sharing Chinese arts and culture, handicraft stalls were available for guests to bring home a souvenir or two, while multicultural performances in Dewan San Choon entertained guests. Demonstrating his skills at calligraphy, the Prime Minister was invited on stage to brush the final stroke to complete the Chinese character for spring (春).

A first for the MCA Open House, ang pows were distributed by Ka Siong to children. Also

adding to the merriment was the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China giving ang pows to a few lucky youngsters.

For HE Karin Mossenlechner, Ambassador of the Netherlands, the MCA CNY Open House was the first Open House she has ever attended since assuming her post in Malaysia. "I delayed my flight tonight just to attend my first Open House and am excited to see the lion dance. I wish everyone all the best, peace and happiness."

Well wishes of "gongxi gongxi" by Perak-born British High Commissioner to Malaysia HE Vicki Treadell who is half Chinese and had spent some of her primary school years in Taiping summed up the uniqueness of Malaysia's tradition of hosting Open House which mirrors values of the nation's multiculturalism. She affirmed that "it is occasions like these which remind us about the importance of diversity - the celebration of the different races in Malaysia."

While few religious extremists have objected to shaking hands with adherents of another faith, such killjoys were completely absent during the Open House when guests irrespective of ethnicity wholeheartedly exchanged handshakes and CNY greetings while wowing at the agility of the lion dances.





From KL to Jasin – Party Chief & Deputy Balik Kampong Too

Not one to forget their humble roots, later on the first night of CNY, Tiong Lai and Ka Siong went for a typical mamak session at their home town in Jasin, Merlimau with local Malacca MCA leaders. Local patrons were stunned to have in their presence, the casual disposition of two full Cabinet Ministers practising classlessness, and taking the time to mingle and take selfie poses with them.



Kaigong energiser

The greatest assets of any organization would be its staff. While MCA leaders would make their customary CNY rounds at their party divisions and constituencies, they certainly did not forget their staff who are responsible for the daily operations of the MCA Headquarters. Central Committee members joined Tiong Lai and Ka Siong in tossing the yee sang for lunch. Prior to that, a simple recommencement-of-work ceremony was held at the entrance of Wisma MCA by a multiracial troupe performing lion and dragon dances whilst mounting a symbolic Rooster aloft a high pole along with a rotating globe.

Tourists and tenants alike stopped by to capture the lively performance of which the crew proceeded to every floor which MCA HQ departments occupy to cleanse the spirits of the past and spread blessings to MCA leaders and employees alike, more so when speculation that the 14th general election will be held this year.

DAP DEMOCRATIC?

LET THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

MCA

- Media invited to cover MCA AGMs, press conferences
- Engages media, including online portals critical of MCA & BN



ISSUE

Media ties

- Prohibited *Utusan* and *New Straits Times* from covering Penang State Legislative Assembly sessions
- Lim Guan Eng complained that Chinese dailies' coverage of him isn't BIG enough, or not used in national pages although Guan Eng is a regular feature on the front page of *Sin Chew Daily's* northern metro page
- Ironically, it was the Chinese press which were instrumental in aiding DAP & the Opposition into power in 2008 and 2013
- Paradoxically, the Penang state government publishes its own Bulletin Mutiara where Guan Eng can self-praise his ego
- Lim Guan Eng as Chief Minister threatened to sever funding to 84 Chinese Primary Schools in Penang if they subscribed to *Utusan Malaysia* and *Berita Harian*

NGO engagement

Regularly holds dialogue sessions with Chinese guilds and associations, industry stakeholders, youth and women's organisations, legal fraternity, religious bodies, etc to gather feedback on national and state policies and legislations, as well as diplomatic corp and international political parties to enhance diplomatic exchanges



Lim Guan Eng is the first Chief Minister to quarrel with civil society groups eg CHANT or ignore their recommendations which similar to the Chinese press, were instrumental in aiding DAP to capture and retain Penang in 2008 and 2013

Party Affairs

- Introduced Expanding Delegates Mechanism for direct elections
- 33,000 Divisional Delegates to vote President & Central Committee members
- As Divisional Delegates are empowered by the Branch Delegates, the Expanding Delegates Mechanism thereby reactivates and empowers the Branches too to be participatory in MCA's polls and activities
- Notices are posted to Central Delegates on the AGM date and agenda



- No direct elections
- DAP members select 20 leaders into the Central Executive Committee (CEC)

-20 EC members then decide who holds positions. Thus, one might get the highest number of votes into the CEC, but won't necessarily be chosen to be the Secretary General

- At the DAP "polls" on 15 Dec 2012, why weren't 753 members out of 2,576 members informed about the DAP polls day?



MCA'S TOP 10

NEWS REVIEW FOR 2016

Despite the challenges of the Malaysian political environment, MCA continues to uphold our principles, retaining our values of Realise Moderation, Build on Pragmatism. Our party will never yield despite the onslaught of difficulties we encounter, while conscientiously and diligently serving the masses besides planning the future of our nation. Let's review MCA's top 10 news in 2016:

1

Dato' Seri Hadi Awang Private Member's Bill to Amend the Syariah Court (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 2016



After Minister in the PM's Department's Dato' Seri Azalina Othman's sudden petition on 26 May 2016 to fast track debate on the Syariah Court (Criminal Jurisdiction) Bill – a backdoor to implement hudud criminal codes, MCA instantly publicly reiterated our firm objection. Our 3 Cabinet Ministers and 4 Deputy Ministers declared they will quit their posts if hudud is implemented.

On 27 May 2016, MCA President Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai led leaders from Gerakan, MIC and SUPP in a joint press conference disagreeing with the Bill being petitioned by an UMNO Minister even before discussion in Cabinet, whilst reaffirming our uncompromising stand against the Bill's proposed changes and pledge to uphold the Federal Constitution.

On 29 May 2016, the party chief summoned divisional leaders for an emergency briefing to discuss preventive solutions, and later led leaders from BN component parties to express dissatisfaction against UMNO's handling of the Bill, while recapping that the proposed amendments which remove the "3-6-5 Safeguards" ie penalties restricted to 3 year's imprisonment, 6 strokes of the rotan and RM5,000 fine are unconstitutional.

2

Party Constitution Amended to Enable the Expanding Delegates Mechanism



The MCA 63rd Annual General Assembly convened on 12 November 2016 had voted unanimously to amend the Party Constitution to enable implementation of the Expanding Delegates Mechanism. This historic milestone in MCA empowers 33,000 Divisional Delegates to elect the Central Committee at the next party polls, rather than the selection being restricted to the Central Delegates present at Dewan San Choon from among the 2,400. A wider representative electoral base evinces further democratisation within MCA.

3

BN's Triumph at Two By-Elections Sees Return of Lost Chinese Votes



MCA was instrumental in campaigning for the BN candidates for the Sungai Besar (Budiman Mohd Zohdi) and Kuala Kangsar (Mastura Yazid) Parliamentary by-elections which after a 13-day campaign, saw a pendulum swing return of Chinese votes to BN. Nomination day was held on 5 June while voters went to the polls on 18 June.

In the 7 Chinese-majority polling stations in Sg Besar, BN received an average of 40% support from the Chinese which is above the 30% target set by MCA and more than double the percentage secured in 2013. Whereas in Kuala Kangsar, in the 85% Chinese-majority seat of Jerlun, BN received 52.3% of votes, a seismic comeback, compared to the 68.2% of votes captured by the Opposition in 2013.

4

PM's State Visit to China Reaps Major Accomplishments



Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak 6-day state visit to China from 31 Oct to 5 Nov 2016 received full military honours. Besides holding talks with China President HE Xi Jinping, Premier HE Li Keqiang and Chairman of the National People's Congress HE Zhang Dejiang, 16 g-to-g, and 14 business-to-business MoUs and agreements were inked totaling RM144 billion.

The "strategic co-operation" between both our nations was upgraded to "comprehensive strategic co-operation", thereby raising Malaysia-China diplomatic ties to a higher level.

As one of the Cabinet Ministers accompanying the PM, Tiong Lai's focal point included paying a courtesy call on China's Minister of Transport H.E. Li Xiaopeng, and China Railway Corporation General Manager Lu Dongfu; witnessing MoU signings between China Post Group and Tourism Pahang; Tourism Malaysia and the AliBaba group to create the Malaysia Tourism Pavilion, given briefings on the development of Gu'an New Industrial Park, JD e-Commerce Logistics Plant as well as the Gu'an Peacock Lake Park which will further intensify Malaysia-China co-operation in transport and logistics.

5

Belt & Road Initiative (OBOR)



undertakes a crucial role to bridge links between Malaysia and China, introducing local investors to grasp the bountiful opportunities from OBOR.

With the reinforcement of friendly ties between MCA and the Communist Party of China (CPC), both parties have launched a comprehensive and multi-layered co-operating under the Belt & Road Initiative (OBOR) initiated by China. As a coalition partner of the ruling government, MCA

In 2016, MCA continued to organise a number of OBOR-related projects, eg:

- International Conference on "The Belt & Road Initiative: China-ASEAN Relations" in Johor Bahru organised by MCA think-tank, the Institute of Strategy Analysis and Policy Research
- 2nd "Belt & Road Initiative: Malaysia-China Business Dialogue" organized by the MCA PRC Affairs Committee.
- 46 Malaysian Chinese guilds and associations signed the MCA-Chinese Community Belt & Road Declaration
- The MCA PRC Affairs Committee set up the MCA Belt & Road Center (MBRACE) at the MCA Headquarters to facilitate comprehensive economic and trade research, information sharing, business consulting and a commercial one-stop service center thereby promoting co-operation between the China and Malaysia.

6

Government Tables Amendments to the Legal Reform (Marriage & Divorce) Act 1976

In November 2016, the government tabled in the Dewan Rakyat the Law Reform (Marriage & Divorce) Bill. Amongst the proposed amendments include inserting Section 88A(1) & 88A(2) which mandate that when one party embraces Islam, the religion of any minor child shall REMAIN the religion of the parents at the time of their marriage. The child may choose his/her faith upon reaching 18 years.



The amendments are expected to reduce the conflicts of a Muallaf unilaterally converting the minor child without the non-converting spouse's knowledge. Through MCA's consistent stand that the minor child's faith is to be determined by "IBUBAPA" and not "ibu atau bapa" and tireless efforts in Cabinet that legislations must enshrine thus, the proposed amendments will soon meet realisation.

7

Solved! SJKC Teacher Shortage Problem

For too long, SJKCs were faced with the problem of teacher shortages. Through the tireless efforts of MCA and the Education Ministry (MoE), this perennial problem was not only resolved but there are now



surplus teachers for SJKCs. According to data from MoE, the new 2017 school session will have 979 teachers posted to SJKCs to fill up the shortage of 778 teachers as of 31 Dec 2016. Another batch of 832 teachers will be posted to SJKCs by June 2017. These figures translate to 1,811 teachers posted to SJKCs in 2017 - an excess of 442 teachers, and a first time that SJKCs have surplus teachers. It is estimated that SJKCs will no longer endure teacher shortage woes by 2019.

MCA Deputy President cum Minister in the PM's Department Datuk Seri Dr Ir Wee Ka Siong had during his tenure as Deputy Education Minister convened roundtable talks between SJKC teachers, MoE for the Chinese community to use this mechanism to resolve the teacher shortage problem. However, during MCA's interim absence from wielding government posts, SJKCs encountered difficulties to progress.

The SJKC teacher shortage woes was satisfactorily addressed in 2015 when the new MCA Youth Chairman Datuk Chong Sin Woon was appointed as Deputy Education Minister. His zest and prudence in handling SJKC issues ie relocation, expansion plans and teacher shortage saw these issues successfully resolved.

8

Foon Yew High School, Johor Gets Nod to Build Second Branch



In October 2016, Foon Yew High School, Johor received the approval to construct its second branch (third campus) at Bandar Seri Alam Seri Alam. This is in addition to its main campus in Johor and the first branch (second campus) at Kulai. Foon Yew High School, the largest Chinese Independent High School is the first to have two branches, marking an unprecedented achievement in the history of Chinese education in Malaysia.

In fact PM Najib affirmed the government's approval of the new branch and pledged to allocate RM1mil as the school's development funds. After more than 3 years, the relevant units issued the letter of approval for the branch' construction. Issuance of the approval letter was delayed due to Cabinet reshuffle whereby the then Education Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was replaced with Dato' Seri Mahdzir Khalid who had to get the application for the construction project reprocessed.

Coupled with active follow-up from MCA, Foon Yew High School's second branch finally obtained the approval letter for its construction on 30 Sept 2016. To get the

fundraising rolling, MCA donated RM1mil for this project which is slated for completion by 2020.

9

Jom! Stronger Together Carnivals



MCA hosted 5 "Jom! Stronger Together Carnivals" commencing with Alor Gajah, Malacca in April followed by Raub, Pahang in May; Alor Setar, Kedah in July, Labis, Johor in

October and Johor Jayain November. The activities aim to encourage party unity and revive MCA's momentum. The Jom Carnivals enables direct engagement between MCA CC Members, Division leaders and the masses. These tightening of bonds form part of MCA's transformation plan.

Held over 2 days, the Jom Carnival's activities were divided into 6 categories ie motivational seminars, exhibitions, information counters, sports events, games and other activities. Aside from motivational seminars reserved for MCA members, all other activities are open to the public. MCA units and government agencies also provided counter services, to enhance the relationship between party members and residents.

10

Blossom Art Festival Malaysia 2016

In June 2016, the Malaysian Chinese Culture and Art Consultative Council organised the month-long "2016 Blossom Art Festival Malaysia" at Wisma MCA with the sponsorship by the party. MCA provided the venue for culture and arts groups for exhibitions, performing arts, visual arts, folks arts, photography/arts/crafts/painting/etc.



BAFM provides a platform to support, promote and develop the diverse arts and culture of Malaysian individual artistes and groups. All proceeds earned during BAFM were channeled back to the respective participating bodies as part of their fundraising effort..

Themed "Cultural Diversity in Full Bloom", 101 local groups and 13 international performing arts troupes participated including those from China, Singapore, Japan, India and the Chinese Taipei involving 1,000 culture and arts artistes participating in 200 events which attracted more than 20,000 visitors. Meanwhile, 25 promotional activities and press conferences were held.

KELANTAN CONTINUES TO Sink With Floods

The Kelantan floods have become an annual affair that not only disrupts the lives of the ordinary Kelantanese, but also incurs great financial losses and some casualties over the past few years.

In fact, Kelantan residents were drenched in flood waters while welcoming the new year of 2017, where over 6,000 people were evacuated to makeshift shelters as of 1 January 2017. Three days later, the number of evacuees ballooned to over 12,000, where the annual calamity blocked roads, halting transport to reach some villages by all means.

Floods Wreak Lives In Kelantan



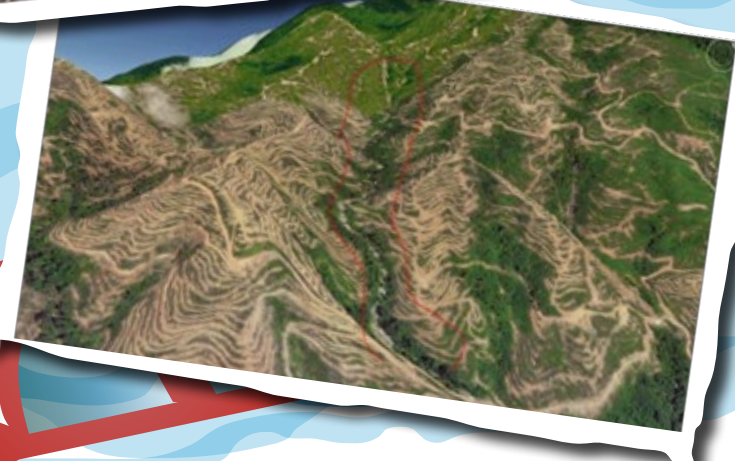
The immense torrential downpour incurred havoc in various districts including Bachok, Kota Bharu, Kuala Krai, Machang, Pasir Mas, Pasir Puteh, Tanah Merah and Tumpat.

Just 2 years ago, Kelantan suffered great losses of homes and infrastructure in December 2014, in which more than 200,000 Kelantanese were forced to vacate their homes and 21 people reportedly died during the floods, marking it the worst flood ever befalling the state's history.

Logging & not heavy rainfall the root of overflowing rivers

Two main rivers in Kelantan were identified to have overflowed i.e. The Golok River, which runs along parts of the border between Malaysia and Thailand, and the gushing rainwater has led to the town of Rantau Panjang and Pasir Mas district inundated in water level as high as 10.31 metres, which is surpassed the danger threshold of 9 metres. At the same time, the rising Golok River also flooded Kuala Jambu in Tumpat, where the water level stood at 3.42 metres, which is way above the 2.5 metre danger threshold.

Meanwhile, the Kelantan River overflowed slightly above 16 metres at Kusial and Tanah Merah. This situation prompted much speculations over the cause of the recurring floods and its increased intensities over the years. The Kelantan Orang Asli Villages Network (JKOAK) secretary Jamali Ayu had cautioned against rampant logging which is said to have caused muddy floods in 2014, and the Orang Asli community is continuing with the blockade to stop intensified rainfall from flooding the low-lying areas in Gua Musang.





To add salt to injury, UMNO Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah had confirmed that deforestation and uncontrolled land clearing for logging, opening of oil palm plantations and agricultural activities contributed to the recurring floods in Kelantan.

When our Crisis Relief Squad of MCA (CRSM) rushed to deliver food supplies to the literally starving Orang Asli at Kuala Betis in December 2014 during the massive floods then, witnessing the devastation the wanton deforestation wrecked, they exhorted cease of illegal logging activities as the flood waters then had cut off all forms of transport connectivity from the Orang Asli hamlets to the nearest town, thereby terminating movement of supplies and people. Unfortunately, such calls fell on deaf ears on the PAS-helmed Kelantan state government.

But the PAS-led Kelantan state government failed to acknowledge these facts, and continues to come up with different excuses like 'the flood is unusual and unexpected' with extremely heavy rainfall. To the people of Kelantan, this is unacceptable and irresponsible, as they have been experiencing floods over the last few years and nothing constructive has been done to ease their woes.

More feasible plans needed for flood mitigation

Instead of pushing Putrajaya to allocate more funds to remedy floods, PAS should show sincerity to its people by formulating useful flood mitigation plans. PAS is well aware that the real reason for the disastrous floods in Kelantan is due to years of neglect and poor planning by the state government itself.

Furthermore, PAS should start paying attention to the Orang Asli community which has been vocal about the rampant logging activities besieging the state. If only PAS started to take this issue seriously, then the problem can be solved once and for all!

BN-held Putrajaya looks after Opposition states

On this matter, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi recently announced that a special allocation of RM800 mil from the Federal government will be channeled through the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) for riverbed deepening and to ensure smooth diverting of water to the estuaries. It also shows BN does not neglect Opposition states.

The first phase of the project is expected to start in June, followed by the second phase which will be completed in the next five years. It is hoped that the project will be expedited to reduce flood risks during monsoon season where the rainfall is heavy.



CRSM to the rescue again

No dampened zeal when floods hit

Critics unreasonably pan BN and MCA of neglecting states ruled by the Opposition. Far from the truth, MCA does not sideline development to Pakatan-run states but extends assistance to them.

During the late Dec 2016 to early Jan 2017 floods which struck Kelantan, the Crisis Relief Squad of MCA (CRSM) wasted no time in immediately dispatching its personnel from the West Coast to alleviate the burden of multiracial villagers affected by the rising waters.

Although the torrents this round were not as severe as those from Dec 2014 to Jan 2015, CRSM's spirit and zeal for public service rose above self-need.

With a few major roads destroyed by the disaster, and rivers overflowing their banks, CRSM spared no effort in carefully treading through knee-to-waste-high water levels, even navigating sampan and light motorboats through what-used-to-be land roads, to ensure victims were safely evacuated to higher and dry grounds or food supplies delivered to affected areas.

Reaching disaster zones

The footprints of the volunteers extended from Pulau Raya and Kampung Ipoh in Tanah Merah, Kampung Jambu and Kampung Mentua in Tumpat and lastly to Kampung Degong in Rantau Panjang.

Among the disaster areas listed, Pulau Raya is an islet on the Kelantan River where 11 families dwell, all of whom are Chinese. The massive floods destroyed the solitary small bridge linking to Tanah Merah. Hence, the sole traffic road was severed. As the catastrophe victims endured the crisis, CRSM volunteers ensured delivery of necessities to them by boat.

The MCA Division and village heads were consistent in furnishing CRSM with situation reports eg victims fully utilising their food supplies or electricity cut-off in some zones thereby reflecting their concern for the victims and remedial measures required. Providing daily updates of the rivers' water level and weather forecast, CRSM Facebook's alerts served another form of public service.

Fortitude to inspire humanity

The numerous difficulties the 32 CRSM volunteers



encountered e.g. ravaged landscapes prevented the 4-wheel drive from trudging through did not discourage their determination. At times, the only method the CRSM team could undertake was by physically lifting the dried food stuff and supplies out of the vehicle, tread through muddy waters, and hand-by-hand, carry these daily essentials to the victims.

It is the hope of CRSM that whatever aid rendered at this critical juncture may help the victims overcome their hardships. The destruction sceneries and victims' hardships which the CRSM crew witnessed cast a shadow of heart-brokenness. Nevertheless, their iron willpower led the crew insisting that relief goods and compassion must reach at all cost so as to inspire hope where all seems lost.

May the close co-operation between the MCA Kelantan, Divisions and CRSM during the Kelantan floods inspire more members and the public to volunteer for humanitarian works.