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[Liu Zhewei Column] Failure in the fight against the epidemic: the government should temporarily surrender power



[Liu Zhewei](#) Last updated 2 months ago · Published on 27 May 2021 2:43PM · 0 comments

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The author believes that many people have various reasons for requesting the government to completely step down, such as questioning the government's moral legitimacy, failure to fight the epidemic, and abuse of power. (File photo: Perspective of Malaysia)

Let us (including the Muhyiddin government) answer the following question first.

Putting aside the process, effort, empathy, etc., and focusing only on the results, would you say that the government has failed to fight the global pandemic?

My answer is definitely a failure. In the past few months, we have seen that the government has made many mistakes and meaningless policies, especially after the election in Sabah. Needless to say, everyone knows the reason for the failure. I believe The government is also aware. It can be seen from Muhyiddin's recent interview that he tried to tell us that he tried his best. Many things are beyond his control. In short, economic factors have prevented another movement restriction order (MCO1.0).

That's why I asked the question at the beginning of the article, and I didn't feel empathy because of his situation. You can see the final result. If other politicians and political parties have any suggestions, why does the government not follow them? Is it because of political considerations, or is it really impossible to do technically?

That's why I suggested that the government temporarily transfer power to people who better manage the pandemic. Of course, many people have various reasons to ask the government to completely step down, such as questioning the government's moral legitimacy, failure in the fight against the epidemic, and abuse of power. Of course, it is easy to talk about it directly and completely, but in fact, it will not be realized, because the transfer of power is not only about the management of the epidemic, but the transfer of the entire regime. Even if you are Muhyiddin, you will not agree.

Therefore, my suggestion is to temporarily transfer the power of the entire government to others, and use key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure whether the new leader has successfully dealt with the package of problems facing him. The difference between the two is that the former is the transfer of political power and the latter is the transfer of administrative power. Of course, this suggestion will not be easy. The question is, first of all, how do you know that the Muhyiddin government or the new leader is more effective? Second, if the new leader cannot control the spread of the epidemic, will he return power to Muhyiddin?



### How to know who is capable?

In fact, this proposal will also benefit the Muhyiddin government.

In any country, it is easier to be an opposition party than to be a government. Let me cite a few simple real examples. When the DAP was in opposition, they often criticized MCA and Gerakan for not being able to fight for recognition of the unified examination, but when the DAP was in power, the same situation occurred. When Pakatan Harapan was in power, it criticized the various strict laws of Barisan Nasional. When Pakatan Harapan was in power, most of the laws, such as the multimedia and communications laws, sedition laws, and various harsh laws, were not repealed, only one anti-fake news decree was repealed. In short, it is easier for opposition parties to complain than when the government enforces it, and I don't deny this.

However, one year after this global pandemic, the situation has gotten worse. Isn't one to one and a half years not enough for the government to control the epidemic? Is it the situation in Malaysia that no one is able to fight the epidemic or is it because the current government is incompetent?

In today's Malaysian political situation, every major political party has served as a government. They know how the government works, so it's not impossible for them to put forward actual management plans instead of rhetoric. For them, both parties should set up their own Setting KPIs is like "the higher the price gets" in the bidding process. If you realize that on the topic of the epidemic, my country's political debate has nothing to do with ideological differences. For example, should we help companies or the people, and should put health or the economy first, and so on.

Politicians have similar ideologies to curb epidemics. For example, health is the most important thing, people-oriented, etc. Since they are similar, where is the difference? For example, the opposition party questioned why the government did not block it completely? If funds are needed for a complete blockade, when the government uses the retirement fund for civil servants, the opposition party protests again. So in fact, no matter what the government does, the opposition party has a plan to solve the problem and better solve the current epidemic.

This is what I said, "quote" to the opposition parties and see how they do their jobs. If they say that the promised "quote" is worse than the current government's, then I don't see why they should be given a chance. But if their "quote" is better than the current government, then since the current government cannot effectively fight the epidemic, leave politics aside, let the opposition party give it a try. Of course, this is not a pure try, but there must be a "quote." Such as

If they cannot execute it within the specified time, they must return the power to the Muhyiddin government, which is actually good for both parties. For the Muhyiddin government, it can get rid of the accusations of the incompetent government, while for the opposition party, there can be a chance for performance.





### If the new leader fails, will the power be returned to the Muhyiddin government?

The next question is how to make sure that the new leader will not borrow from Jingzhou like Liu Bei, whether he has borrowed it or not? Don't forget, we still have the last line of defense, the head of state. There is no doubt that the head of state should be non-politicized. His Majesty should not be involved in politics under ordinary circumstances, but the current situation is special.

First of all, use extraordinary means in extraordinary times. Second, although the spirit of the rule of law does not really allow the head of state to do so, the constitution is different from the law. Although it is unconstitutional, it does not violate the law. Third, aside from the issue of legitimacy, it cannot be denied that so far, the royal family still has a great influence in Malaysian politics, especially when the decision of the ruler is welcomed by the people, it is difficult for politicians to defy the reality of politics.

In Malaysia's political background, defying the royal family is a taboo. Because of this, the head of state can be a "just man" under special circumstances, that is, within a specified time (as mentioned above, determined by KPI), the country The head of state asked the new leader to return power. The Supreme Head of State does not need to play the role of referee, but only needs to give power to the winner according to the results of the competition between the two parties. Not surprisingly, this proposal is not legally valid, but in the context of Malaysian politics, it is actually feasible.

All in all, I know that my proposal is beyond traditional ideas, but under the current circumstances, it is impossible for the Muhyiddin government to step down due to political reasons.

However, if the government is overthrown on the grounds of failing to deal with the epidemic, how can we ensure that the new leader is better than him in fighting the epidemic? This is why I propose to hand over power temporarily. If the new leadership cannot contain the epidemic, it should return power to Muhyiddin in accordance with mutually agreed rules of the game. If the epidemic can be contained, the Muhyiddin government must also be convinced.

*\* Liu Zhewei is currently an assistant professor in the Political Science Department of International Islamic University. Prior to this, he also taught in other institutions of higher learning. Liu Zhewei obtained a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in political science from the National University of Malaysia, and a doctorate in political science from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom.*

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