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[Liu Zhewei Column] The coalition government does not work in actual politics



[Liu Zhewei](#) Last updated 2 months ago · Published on 10 Jun 2021 1:30PM · 0 comments

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If Muhyiddin continues to serve as prime minister and all public policies remain as they are, then this coalition government will be meaningless. (File photo: Perspective of Malaysia)

On the surface, coalition government seems to be a good idea. I support the concept of coalition government, but it is limited to the imaginary level. The actual level does not work. In Malaysia, politicians and political parties cannot reach the level of gentleman politics. Just as before the fight against the global pandemic, political parties will use their own set of management methods to make decisions. Political considerations are still one of their considerations.

Why do I say it doesn't work? First of all, due to the different directions of public management policies, including Umno leaders and the opposition demanding banks to implement a moratorium on loan repayment and implement a true total blockade, both proposals were rejected by the Muhyiddin government.



If a coalition government is formed, but the two camps cannot reach an agreement on the fight against the epidemic, it will be meaningless for the opposition party to become a member of the cabinet, and it will only make more noise. Unless one of them is willing to compromise, but based on the current situation, it seems that neither camp is willing to give up their policies.

Second, who will be the prime minister? If Muhyiddin continues to serve as prime minister and all public policies remain as they are, then this coalition government will be meaningless. On the contrary, if Muhyiddin is willing to give up the post of prime minister, I don't think it is suitable for him to place him in the post of deputy prime minister or minister. After all, he was the prime minister at the time.

So, in other words, this is not a coalition government, but an overthrow of the current government. Even if Muhyiddin is willing to voluntarily give up his position as prime minister and withdraw from politics, I believe that his two right-hand men will not agree with him to do so and pass the prime ministerial position to others, because this is equivalent to exploiting Azmin Ali and Hancha. Zanu's power.

Without Muhyiddin, even if they had the chance to stay in the cabinet, they would be nothing more than an ordinary minister. Therefore, I believe that as long as there is no major event that can shake Muhyiddin, there is no reason for him to give up his post as prime minister. Try to look at Muhyiddin's point of view, if you are the current prime minister, and the coalition government is not your prime minister, would you give up easily?

Therefore, politically, especially in the current situation, it is almost impossible to realize a coalition government.



But if the head of state intervenes, the formation of a coalition government will have a chance to be realized. Although the royal family has no right to intervene in politics at the legal level, and your majesty's opinions are purely recommendations, in the context of Malaysian politics and culture, the influence of the royal family does have weight, and politicians and political parties have to follow your majesty's recommendations.

They must strike a balance between personal (including political party) interests and violating the ruler's advice. Although not restricted by the constitution, those who violate the ruler will pay a heavy price for it. This is why politicians and political parties only do this under severe circumstances.

However, although it is possible to successfully establish a new coalition government under His Majesty's intervention, this can only be the first step, and the next second step is not easy. As I said at the beginning of the article, when the coalition government (if it does happen) has a disagreement in the public policy of managing the epidemic, should it hope that His Majesty will be the referee to resolve various policy conflicts?

You can refer to my last article ["Failed to fight the epidemic: The government should temporarily surrender power"](#). My personal suggestion is that in the current global pandemic situation, the League of Nations can temporarily transfer power to the best candidate to take over the fight against the epidemic.

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