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'Pas trying to influence Kedah MCA leaders to remain neutral in election'

ALOR STAR, Sun. - Kedah MCA chief Datuk Chua Jui Meng said today certain Pas figures were trying to influence MCA leaders in the State to stay neutral in seats where there would be a straight fight between Umno and Pas in the general election.

"We will not fall into the trap ... this ploy will not work as we will ensure every Chinese vote goes to the Barisan Nasional.

"Our women members will go house to house to campaign."

Chua has also directed MCA members to go to the ground to explain issues raised by the Opposition.

They will talk to residents and non-governmental organisations and remind all party members of their role and responsibility in supporting BN candidates.

"Our machinery is well prepared for the general election and members will close rank and work hard for the polls," he said, after announcing the State MCA committee last night.

MCA has 55,000 members in Kedah, of whom 32 per cent are women.

On the Opposition's concentration on Kubang Pasu, Chua said while the MCA on its own was taking measures to ensure Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was returned in the constituency, the party would also continue with joint programmes with Gerakan and MIC members to achieve this.

"We have organised dinners and used them as forums to explain to the Chinese in Kubang Pasu the reasons why we want them to support BN ... this will be on-going," he added.

Meanwhile, two former vice-chairmen were among several leaders dropped in the new State liaison committee line-up.

The two are former Merbok division chief Ang Toon Cheng and former Kubang Pasu division chief Ooi Poh Teik.

Three made vice-chairmen are Pendang division chief Quah Teong Moo, Padang Serai division chief Goh Ten Hock and Baling deputy division chief Wong Chin Fatt.

State Executive Councillor and Gurun assemblyman Datuk Beh Heng Seong was retained as secretary.

The five State party advisers - Tan Sri Willian Chek Lin Kwai, Datuk Cheah Chong Chiew, Datuk Chong Kim Wah, Datuk Oo Gin Sun and Datuk Fang Chok Seong - were retained.

Alor Star Member of Parliament Datuk Chor Chee Heung and Kulim assemblyman Datuk Yong Pau Chak were retained as deputy chairmen.

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