

PM praised for his open views

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MCA leaders praised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's views of a non-Malay Prime Minister in the future but doubted if it is workable.

"It can work in theory but we will have to rely on other factors which will determine the issue including strength of representation as Umno is the stronger voice," the party's secretary-general Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said.

However, he described Mahathir's statement as "very liberal, brave and open which proves that all Malaysians are equal".

Vice-president Datuk Dr Chua Jui Meng said that while the Prime Minister's statement reaffirms the Federal

Constitution, democratic principles ensure that the Prime Minister will come from the party with the strongest voice.

"It is possible. When it will come about will depend on the democratic principles we abide by, that the larger political voice, which is now Umno, is the one which leads," he said.

MCA Wanita national chairman Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen said that Mahathir's "visionary statement" reflects sensitivity to the changing trends of the country's politics.

"It is a brave call, and it is very possible for a non-Malay to assume the top post, just as it is for a woman," she said.