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Chua a worthy successor, says former Health Minister

Chong Chee Seong

MUAR, Sat. - Pledging to continue supporting the MCA and the Barisan Nasional, former Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng today said Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek was a worthy successor.

Breaking his silence since being dropped from the Cabinet, Chua told a Press conference he would continue to carry out his duties as the MCA vice-president.

"Jimmy" Chua, who received a warm welcome from more than 1,000 supporters at the Bakri MCA service centre and the Jalan Salleh wet market today, thanked the people for their support. He retained his Bakri parliamentary seat with a majority of 19,059 votes.

He was accompanied on his rounds by Sungai Abong assemblyman Datuk Dr Haris Salleh and other BN leaders.

Chua said he was grateful to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for entrusting him with the duties of Health Minister for nine years.

He was also touched by the support of the people.

He said the people were the judges of his performance and the support he received in the last few days showed they valued his effort.

Chua thanked the Health Ministry staff for enabling him to perform his duties.

He said he would continue to support Abdullah's culture, philosophy and policies, as well as those of the MCA and BN, serving the people with sincerity and dedication.

Chua said the support of the people in Muar reaffirmed that he was still accepted as a leader and an elected representative.