

## **MCA slams bid by PM's aide to take Wangsa Maju**

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**By Lu Wei Hoong**

Umno does not practise the 'BN spirit' and proof of this is the move by the caretaker prime minister's political secretary, Shafie Abdullah, to "rob" the Wangsa Maju parliamentary seat from the MCA, the party's Wangsa Maju division said today.

"There is no BN spirit now. Shafie has taken on as the BN chief (for Wangsa Maju). The next step is that they (Umno) will take our constituency.

"They don't even discuss this with us!" the Wangsa Maju MCA organising secretary Lim Choon Hong told a press conference at party's divisional headquarters in Setapak this morning.

Echoing Lim, division deputy chief Ng Kiat Ling said Wangsa Maju MCA has been working hard for many years in the constituency which has been the traditional seat of the party in the federal territory of Kuala Lumpur.

"You (Umno) now want to take it (Wangsa Maju). This is unfair to us!" Ng said.

Wangsa Maju Umno has been eyeing the mixed-seat located in Kuala Lumpur since 2008 and wants to field Shafie, who is the party's division chief, there.

Last Friday, Shafie attended a prayer session and luncheon with Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin in Wangsa Maju, setting tongues wagging that he has obtained the Umno central leadership's blessing to go for Wangsa Maju.

MCA 'lends' Tronoh to the MIC

Chinese dailies have, since last week, speculated that MCA will make way for Umno in a number of parliamentary constituencies, including Wangsa Maju and Gelang Patah in Johor.

However, MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek has to date only confirmed that Tronoh, a state seat in Perak, would be "lent" to the MIC.

The MCA leader explained the justification behind this decision on his Facebook page, in which he also called on MCA members to remain calm and to refrain from sabotaging BN.

Speculation rife for a while that MCA has agreed to Umno taking over the Wangsa Maju seat, raising disgruntlement within MCA on the ground is escalating.

Some 3,000 MCA members and supporters rallied at a dinner last night, demanding that Wangsa Maju MCA division chief Yew Teong Look (above) be named as the BN the candidate

for the seat.

Some party members directed their anger at Chua for not informing the grassroots about the alleged decision to give away the traditionally MCA constituency to Umno.

The rally-cum-dinner held at Danau Kota, Setapak was organised by some 80 local organisations.

Why not give Labis and Bandar Tun Razak as well?

Holding umbrellas under the rain, Yew's supporters unfurled banners supporting him and took turns to speak on stage, demanding that the BN retains Yew as the coalition's candidate in Wangsa Maju.

Community leader Lim Cheng Hock, who claimed to be an MCA veteran, described Chua as "kiasu" (afraid of losing) and "kiasi" (afraid of death).

An angry Lim dismissed the argument that Wangsa Maju has more than 50 percent Malay voters and therefore it should be contested by an Umno candidate.

"Which MCA seats have more than 50 percent Malay voters? They include Labis and Bandar Tun Razak, so why not give these seats to Umno also?" he asked.

"I have been with the party for more than 30 years... Can I ask my party leader why he could not have informed us before making such a major decision (to give away Wangsa Maju)?"

Lim also called on Yew to contest as independent candidate if he was not fielded in Wangsa Maju under BN ticket.

The MCA members fear that the constituency would not be returned to their party once it is given to Umno.

Yew, who took the stage as the last speaker, said, "I have heard the voice of the people" and said he needed time to consider the views expressed by the party members and supporters.

Questioned by reporters later, Yew refused to respond on the call to him to contest as an independent candidate should he not be named as BN's choice for Wangsa Maju.

At an emergency meeting on Monday, the Wangsa Maju MCA division resolved that it would boycott the election campaign if Yew was not fielded there.

Yew lost to PKR's Wee Choo Keong by a wafer-thin majority of 150 votes in the 2008 general election. Wee quit PKR in 2010 to become a pro-BN Independent MP.

Wangsa Maju Umno has been eyeing the mixed-seat located in Kuala Lumpur since 2008 and wants to field its division chief Shafie Abdullah, who is also political secretary to Umno president Najib Abdul Razak.

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