

## **PKR rep Chin Wen tells how to 'slay a dragon'**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**Aug 2, 2013**

**By Susan Loone**

He was often described as the “weakest link” in Penang PKR, sent forth to be sacrificed to the dragon when nobody was willing to take the risk.

He was almost dropped from contesting for the post, until he was notified at the eleventh hour by PKR state chief Mansor Othman.

But Bukit Tengah assemblyperson Ong Chin Wen, who beat Penang BN chief Teng Chang Yeow, with a 5,190 majority in the 13th general election, says he is no weakling.

Coincidentally, Teng, who is Gerakan secretary-general, was born in the Year of the Dragon of the Chinese Zodiac.

Ong may be a “low-profile lawyer” but Teng’s defeat in Bukit Tengah, and BN’s overall miserable performance in the polls, led the latter to resign from all his posts.

Ong also refuted Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak’s claims that it was a Chinese tsunami which resulted in the community throwing their support behind Pakatan Rakyat in the just-concluded general election.

Ong acknowledged that there was a “big wave” which swept over Penang and other states due to the hopes of the people to see Pakatan Rakyat seize Putrajaya from BN.

The ruling coalition, led by Umno, has held the federal helm since Independence, 56 years ago.

“But does it mean that during the election period I just sat there and let the Big Wave do the job?” asked Ong during an interview.

“NONE”The truth is, we did not expect that there would be a wave until the results came out,” he added.

“I can’t say what I did during the election was very great but I do say that certain things I did in the run-up to the campaign and during the period - in order to secure a victory, was not done by others,” he stressed.

Ong (right) said even before the elections were called, he already has a database of 800 voters who live outside but voted in his constituency.

His operation centre kept in touch with them during the campaign to make sure they returned home to vote.

His staff kept in touch with voters at least twice before the polls, and sent them campaign leaflets periodically.

These voters come from as far as Sungai Petani, Butterworth and Bukit Mertajam.

"We constantly checked whether they needed transport so we could provide such services to them during the general election on May 5," said Ong.

'Good relationship with the community'

Other than this, Ong's tactic was 'sms blasting' - where he sent out text messages to introduce himself, especially to new voters.

NONE "We registered new voters. We monitored vote buying activities in five areas. It was not an easy task but our machinery managed to do it," Ong said.

"We had a strong machinery which actually went to the ground, who kept a good relationship with the community, so that we could weed out the vote buyers," he added.

Another factor which can ensure victory is for the candidate to ensure that she or he had enough polling and counting agents (Paca) to tally the results efficiently at the end of polling.

Eighty percent of his Paca comprised of local folk, whom he recruited over two years before the elections.

Ong also managed to win the 'billboards war'.

bn flag all over penang 100213 04 Weeks before the elections, many billboards supporting BN sprung up around his constituency, Ong said.

"We negotiated and managed to get the billboard companies to sponsor us, and they later helped us out in our promotion and campaign activities," he added.

"So, am I the weakest link? The facts speak for themselves," quipped the 36-year-old lawyer.

However, Ong was not too excited when the results were announced that he won his seat, although many would expect he would, since he managed to "slay Teng, the dragon".

"I felt satisfied but not really overwhelmed, as my victory was not the only one which passed with flying colors," he said.

"I felt satisfied because it was a tough war and we won," he added.

"I was not excited because most of us won, and we won Penang. It made my excitement diluted and it became nothing special," he stressed.

He did not feel that the victory against Teng would crush some quarters perception that he is the weakest link in the party.

But Ong was quite appreciative about getting 64.17 percent of the popular vote in his mixed constituency of Bukit Tengah.

Bukit Tengah has a racial composition of 46 percent (Chinese), 36 percent Malays and 18 percent Indians, leading Ong to decide that "the Chinese tsunami argument cannot be applied here".

"I won in streams where they were strong Malay and Indian presence. I know each saluran, the age and racial composition. Who else has this? This shows how serious I am in going to the ground," he said.

Copyright © 1999-2012 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd

Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/237492>