

Only three MCA chiefs won in Chinese areas

by **Giam Say Khoo**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: Only three of the eight top MCA leaders stood and won in Chinese-majority parliamentary constituencies in the 11th general election in 2004.

None of them – the president, deputy president, three vice-presidents, and youth and wanita chiefs (who are automatic vice-presidents) – contested in a seat with more than 50% Chinese or a Chinese-dominated constituency.

The three who won in Chinese-majority seats are MCA vice-presidents Labis MP Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek (49.07% Chinese), Petaling Jaya (South) MP Datuk Donald Lim (46.59%) and Bentong MP (MCA Youth chief) Datuk Liow Tiong Lai (48.54%).

MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting stood and won in Tanjong Piai, Johor, which had 50.68% Malay voters while his deputy Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy won in Selayang with 43.94% Malays.

The other leaders who stood

and won in non-Chinese majority constituencies are vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Fong Chan Onn (Alor Gajah 56.2% Malays), Datuk Ong Tee Keat (Pandan 51.62% Malays) and Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen (Raub 47.67% Malays).

On Sunday, *Oriental Daily* quoted former MCA secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Ting Chew Peh as saying not a single top central MCA leader had the guts to contest in a Chinese-majority constituency since the 1982 general election.

In that election, former party president Tan Sri Lee San Choon challenged former DAP strongman and chairman Dr Chen Man Hin in Seremban (60% Chinese) and won. Today, Seremban has only 48% Chinese voters.

“Leaders today choose to contest in ‘mixed’ constituencies and depend on other (non-Chinese) votes to win. No minister or deputy ministers from the party contested in Chinese-majority seats,” he said.



Ting also said the leaders should not label opposition fortresses like Cheras and Seputeh as “black areas” and party heavyweights should have the courage to face the opposition in these areas.

Contacted yesterday, Lim, who is the deputy tourism minister, said Ting’s allegations were untrue as Lim’s constituency is a Chinese-majority area and that included constituencies like Klang (67.51% Chinese voters), currently held by Datin Paduka Dr Tan Yee Kew, the International Trade and Industry Ministry parliamentary secretary.

“In this society, every state is a mixed state and it represents everyone,” he said, adding that no place should be differentiated as a race-majority area.

Asked whether Ting’s statement would make the party look bad, Lim refused to respond. MCA secretary-general Datuk Ong Ka Chuan told

Constituencies held by MCA's top leaders

President Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting (Housing and Local Government Minister) Tanjong Piai (Malay - 50.68%, Chinese - 48.15%, Indian - 0.96%, Others - 0.21%)	50.68% (MALAY MAJORITY)
Deputy president Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy (Transport Minister) Selayang (Malay - 43.94%, Chinese - 38.97%, Indian - 16.48%, Others - 0.61%)	43.94% (MALAY MAJORITY)
Vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Fong Chan Onn (Human Resources Minister) Alor Gajah (Malay - 56.2%, Chinese - 31.7%, Indian - 12%, Others - 0.2%)	56.2% (MALAY MAJORITY)
Vice-president Datuk Ong Tee Keat (Deputy Higher Education Minister) Pandan (Malay - 51.62%, Chinese - 42.42%, Indian - 5.32%, Others - 0.64%)	51.62% (MALAY MAJORITY)
Vice-president/wanita chief Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen (Deputy Finance Minister) Raub (Malay - 47.67%, Chinese - 43.59%, Indian - 7.09%, Others - 1.66%)	47.67% (MALAY MAJORITY)
Vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek (Health Minister) Labis (Malay - 35%, Chinese - 49.07%, Indian - 15.02%, Others - 0.91%)	49.07% (CHINESE MAJORITY)
Vice president/youth chief Datuk Liow Tiong Lai (Deputy Youth and Sports Minister) Bentong (Malay - 40.54%, Chinese - 48.54%, Indian - 9.43%, Others - 1.49%)	48.54% (CHINESE MAJORITY)
Vice-president Datuk Donald Lim (Deputy Tourism Minister) Petaling Jaya South (Malay - 36.81%, Chinese - 46.59%, Indian - 15.59%, Others - 1.01%)	46.59% (CHINESE MAJORITY)

theSun: “It is too early to discuss who should stand in the next elections and contest in which constituency. Leaders come and go, it is not the right time to comment on election candidates. I may even not contest in the coming election.”