

**Electoral Candidates Based On Performance, Winnability Factors - Kong  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- MCA will pick its candidates for the next general election based on the performance and winnability factors and not on gender consideration, its secretary-general Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha said today.

He said this had been the practice of the party in past elections.

"It'll be based on the chances of winning, who are the best candidates determined by the winnability factor," he told reporters after opening the 36th Wanita MCA annual general meeting at Wisma MCA, here.

He was asked whether the party would field more women candidates in the next general election.

He noted that Wanita MCA would play an important role in efforts to capture more votes in the next election.

Kong said MCA was in a better position to face the 13th general election as party members were more focused and united, and this was evident from the feedback that he had received.

Earlier, in his opening speech, Kong thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for helping the Malaysian Chinese Women Entrepreneurs Foundation with a RM30-million fund for a micro-credit scheme through a unique partnership between the government, private sector and a non-governmental organisation.

Launched in July, the foundation has enabled women entrepreneurs to borrow between RM5,000 and RM10,000, depending on the type of business.

About 4,500 women would benefit from the loan scheme which was mooted by Lim Clan Associations of Malaysia advisor Tan Sri Lim Soon Peng.

Meanwhile, Wanita MCA chief Datuk Yu Chok Tow said the wing would nominate more new faces who had a good chance of winning, and that these candidates were capable and academically highly qualified.

She told reporters it was necessary for the MCA to field more women candidates than the 15 in the general election in 2008 so as to achieve the 30 per cent participation of women in politics.

Yu said 106,604 of the 431,648 Wanita MCA members were young women, and the wing was prepared to allow the young to be fielded as candidates.

In her speech, Yu said the MCA had done a lot for the Chinese community, including in education through the establishment of the Tunku Abdul Rahman College and Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman.

She also said that Wanita MCA opposed the proposed implementation of "hudud" law (Islamic criminal law) by PAS, which she described as a political strategy of the opposition party.

Yu said the differences in opinion among the leaders of the opposition parties showed that each party had its own agenda and they were not keen on development of the nation as whole.

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