

Soi Lek swats aside latest Tee Keat attack
The Malaysian Insider
September 30, 2011
By Melissa Chi

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 30 — Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek today refused to be drawn into another exchange with rival Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat, choosing to brush off the latter's claim that the MCA president's 2007 sex scandal precluded him from contesting in the next general election.

In an interview with The Malaysian Insider this week, Ong said Dr Chua would not qualify to contest under Barisan Nasional's (BN) current policy of only fielding "winnable" candidates in the national polls expected within a year.

"I never comment anything said by Ong Tee Keat. The reason is very simple. He is the most respected leader of MCA, so whatever he says nobody will dare to question him," Dr Chua said dryly.

"So if he thinks it's the truth, let it be the truth. That's the standard answer all the MCA leaders will give to Ong Tee Keat," he told reporters after launching the Tunku Abdul Rahman College's School of Business Studies 40th Anniversary Celebration here.

When asked if he will be contesting in the next general elections, Dr Chua instead refocused the topic on Ong.

"That, you'll have to ask Ong Tee Keat. My word of advice that I can give to Ong Tee Keat is that before you comment on other people, there is a Chinese saying that you stand at the mirror and look at yourself first.

"How honourable are you?" he said instead.

Dr Chua, who deposed Ong as MCA boss in a fractious power struggle 18 months ago, continues to decline confirming his own candidacy despite revealing this week that several current leaders will not run in the coming polls.

Rumours have also been swirling since February that Ong will be dropped as Pandan MP, as he grows increasingly isolated following his defeat to Dr Chua.

Dr Chua stepped down as health minister and MCA vice-president in 2008 after admitting he was the man featured in a secretly recorded video which showed him having sex with his lover.

But he made a comeback later to win the party's deputy presidency after the MCA's top two leaders resigned due to its poor showing in Election 2008. The party won just 15 of 40 federal and 31 of 90 state seats it contested.

The party subsequently sacked Dr Chua in August 2009 over the sex scandal, sparking an extraordinary general meeting where a vote of no-confidence in Ong was passed.

Dr Chua became MCA president in March 2010 in fresh elections where he saw off Ong and

former president Tan Sri Ong Ka Ting.

MCA will hold what is likely to be its final general assembly this weekend before federal polls are called.

But despite having three presidents in as many years, the party has continued to bleed Chinese support as seen in recent by-elections.

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright© 2011 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/soi-lek-swats-aside-latest-tee-keat-at-tack/>