

**Najib has final say on candidates, says Soi Lek**  
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**By ELWEEN LOKE and IVAN LOH**

IPOH: The final decision of where candidates of Barisan Nasional component parties will be fielded lies in the hands of Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, said MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek.

He said the Prime Minister, who is also Barisan chairman, would base his decisions on reliable information of each candidate.

"There are various aspects to consider including whether a candidate has worked hard and is active in his or her respective division, as well as the strength of the division and voters' confidence in the person.

"The preparedness of each component party's election machinery will also be taken into account," Dr Chua told reporters after having lunch with traders at the Gunung Rapat wet market here yesterday.

The MCA chief was responding to a news report that Gerakan intended to field its candidates in the Gopeng parliamentary and Malim Nawar state constituencies, which are traditionally held by MCA.

Gopeng Gerakan division chief Dr Lee Chee Peng had reportedly voiced the party's intention to contest the two seats after MCA expressed their confidence in winning the Puchong parliamentary seat, which was contested by Gerakan in the 2008 general election.

At the Parit Buntar Umno Hari Raya open house, Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir said Dr Lee was making mere suggestions and coalition parties could not swap seats as they like.

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