

**GE13: Four MCA leaders out of the race**  
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PETALING JAYA: Two former MCA presidents and two vice-presidents are out of the race for the 13th general election.

The former presidents not in the list are Tan Sri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat, while the vice-presidents not contesting are Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen and Gan Ping Sieu.

Nineteen new faces have been named as candidates for the parliamentary seats.

Wanita MCA vice-chairman Datuk Heng Sei Kie is slated to contest the Padang Serai parliamentary seat, while newcomer Jessie Ooi will be contesting the Kuala Kubu Baru state seat.

Absent from the list for MCA is Gelang Patah, fuelling widespread speculation that Johor Mentri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman will be taking over the MCA seat to face DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang, while Gelang Patah MCA division chief Jason Teoh was not listed as a candidate in any seat.

The youngest candidate is Kampar MCA Youth committee member Daniel Wa Wai How, 25, who will be contesting the Keranji state seat in Perak, while the oldest candidate is 70-year-old Selangor MCA information bureau chief Datuk Yap Pian Hon, who is chosen to contest the Serdang parliamentary seat.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek said the party would contest 37 parliamentary and 90 state seats in the May 5 elections.

“We foresee that the competition will definitely be more intense than the previous elections and MCA must employ new strategies to face the battle.

“The ultimate goal for MCA is to ensure that Barisan Nasional will continue to form the government after the GE,” he said yesterday.

“To those who are not being selected as candidates, I can understand your divisions' disappointment,” he said, urging all members to place the party's interests first.

Dr Chua said there are 19 (51.3%) new faces for parliamentary seats and 49 (54.4%) for state seats.

For parliamentary seats, MCA has 21 candidates (six new faces) from the central body, 11 (eight new faces) from the Youth and five from the Wanita wing, who are all new candidates.

For state seats, there are 53 candidates (22 new faces) from the central body, 25 (19 new faces) from the Youth, and 12 (eight new faces) from the Wanita wing, he said.

The candidates for the Parit Yaani state seat in Johor and Teras, Pahang have yet to be named due to some technicalities.

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