

**After GE13, Some Now Relegated To Political Wilderness**  
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In our series to mark the first anniversary of the most heated general election in recent memory, The Malaysian Insider looks up those who lost their seats in Parliament.

The 13th general election saw many big names losing their parliament seats, some to unknowns and political novices. Some were shock defeats, given the popularity of the individuals, but they nevertheless reflected a growing disenchantment with the ruling Barisan Nasional.

The Malaysian Insider finds out what has become of the erstwhile federal lawmakers since.

**Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha**

Not much has been heard of the former transport minister since his shocking defeat to political greenhorn and former navy chief Mohamad Imran Abdul Hamid of the PKR in the Lumut parliamentary seat, which Kong had held for three terms.

The former MCA secretary-general also lost his bid for the vice-presidency in the Chinese party's polls last December and since then, has maintained a very low profile.

He is, however, still the Lumut MCA division chief.

**Datuk Dr Hou Kok Chung**

The former deputy higher education minister was unseated in the Kluang parliamentary seat by DAP's Liew Chin Tong in the anti-BN wave, despite being a local boy and holding the seat since 2008.

Hou managed to shrug off his loss to clinch the MCA vice-presidency at the party's election and is now involved in the party's transformation plan.

He is also a member of Utar University's council.

### **Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad**

The former Kuala Selangor MP lost the seat to unknown law lecturer Datuk Irmohizam Ibrahim of Barisan Nasional by 460 votes, after snatching it from BN in 2008.

In August this year, the Election Court dismissed a petition filed by PAS to challenge the result.

Despite the bitter taste of defeat, the 58-year-old, who holds a doctorate in toxicology, has moved on, and is now executive director of PAS's research centre.

Popular with urban Malaysians, the moderate leader is active on micro blogging site Twitter, often giving his views using his handle @drdzul. He writes opinion pieces on subjects ranging from politics to the economy, such as the adverse impact of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on Malaysians.

His views have been published in various online news portals, including The Malaysian Insider.

### **Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah**

The poster boy for moderation, Saifuddin is highly popular with Malaysians for his liberal views, and is considered a breath of fresh air compared with his Umno colleagues.

However, his popularity did not save him in the Temerloh parliamentary seat, which he lost to PAS's Nasrudin Hassan.

The former deputy higher education minister, known to call a spade a spade, has even criticised his own party and Putrajaya over the handling of the

electoral reform rallies organised by Bersih. He has also ticked off the government, saying it would lose "in moral terms" if it appealed a court ruling that declared a law barring students from politics to be in breach of the Federal Constitution.

Saifuddin is now the chief executive officer of the Global Movement of Moderates and is often invited to speak at forums organised by civil society groups.

### **Datuk Saifuddin Nasution Ismail**

The PKR secretary-general was the incumbent Machang MP but was fielded in the Kulim Bandar Baru parliamentary seat in Kedah, which he lost to BN's Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir by 1,871 votes.

Politics is still in his blood, evident when he decided to throw his hat into the three-corner ring for the party's deputy presidency in the ongoing internal polls. He is trailing behind incumbent Azmin Ali.

### **Mohamad Sabu**

The PAS deputy president, better known as Mat Sabu, is no stranger to defeat, having lost in three consecutive general elections.

He lost in his bid for the Pendang parliamentary seat in GE13 against seasoned politician, BN's Datuk Othman Abdul. The seat had been a PAS stronghold since 2004.

In 2008, he lost the contest for the Kuala Terengganu parliamentary seat to BN's Razali Ismail, and in 2004, he was defeated in Kuala Kedah.

A good orator and debater, the former Internal Security Act (ISA) detainee got into hot soup last year over his alleged Shia leanings, which he denied.

## **Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin**

The former Federal Territories and Urban Well-being minister failed to dislodge voters' favourite, PKR's Nurul Izzah Anwar, in the Lembah Pantai parliamentary seat, despite spending all his time and holding numerous activities in the constituency.

He is still the Lembah Pantai Umno division chief and has been appointed to Umno's powerful supreme council.

## **Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman**

The former Johor Menteri Besar who administered the southern state for 17 years, went head to head with DAP supremo Lim Kit Siang for the Gelang Patah parliamentary seat in a contest dubbed "the mother of all battles", and lost.

He and his party Umno proved to be unpopular with the Chinese voters who at 54%, formed the majority in the seat.

He is currently chairman of conglomerate Sime Darby Bhd, appointed to the post two months after the national polls.

## **Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam**

He was the Malacca chief minister for 13 years and was picked to contest the Bukit Katil parliamentary seat.

Deemed to be a popular administrator of the historical state, he was shocked when he lost to PKR's Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin by 5,447 votes, prompting him to remark that the voters, especially the Chinese, did not appreciate his good deeds over the past 13 years.

Then, in a move to whip up support in the Umno polls last year, the vice-presidential hopeful played the race card, attacking the Chinese for allegedly being involved in all "illegal businesses" in the country.

Although he was probed by the police over his remark, no charges were filed against him.

He lost his bid for the Umno vice-presidency, and afterwards lamented that "no one even wants to look at me now".

He was sworn in as senator in October last year and is currently the chairman of PUNB, a government entrepreneur development corporation set up to foster Bumiputera business owners. – May 5, 2014.

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