

## **Tan Sri Dr. Chua Soi Lek (President March 2010 – December 2013)**



Tan Sri Dr Chua Soi Lek was born in Batu Pahat, Johor in 1947. He was elected as the 9th MCA President at the Party's Extraordinary General Meeting on March 28, 2010.

### **8-Point Action Plan**

To revive and boost the morale of party members, the party organisation and publicity mechanism in order to face the 13th General Election, Dr Chua launched an 8-Point Action Plan:

1. Voter registration
2. Reaching out to youth voters
3. Enhancing new media warfare
4. MCA leaders' online media propaganda
5. Strengthening publicity in mainstream
6. Emphasis on democracy, freedom and fairness
7. Taking a political stand
8. Make good use of party resources so that Divisions have adequate resources to undertake activities

### **Pointing out weaknesses of Barisan Nasional in the BN convention**

During the Barisan Nasional Convention on December 5, 2010, being high profile in politics, Dr Chua emphasised that there should be no seniority in the coalition and all BN component parties were equal partners.

He stressed that important policies should not be announced during the UMNO Annual General Meeting or at the UMNO Supreme Council meetings as these two units could not function as the Cabinet.

He had also urged all BN leaders to stop using sensitive terms like "ketuanan Melayu (Malay supremacy)", "penumpang" and "pendatang". His straightforwardness drew criticism from UMNO leaders including Vice-President Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein but Dr Chua took a firm stand and stood by his remarks.

### **Announcing the decision to decline Government posts if MCA's performance at the 13th General Election (GE) is worse than GE 2008**

MCA had made a courageous decision on April 28, 2011 that Party leaders will not accept Government posts from the federal level to the local authorities if the Party performed worse than GE 2008.

The decision involved more than 10,000 Government officers from Cabinet Ministers to officers in the local authorities. The decision had placed the Party's fate in the hands of Chinese voters to respect democracy. It also marked the pride and baseline of the Party on Chinese representation in politics. No other political party has made such an impactful decision in Malaysian history.

### **Introducing programmes that benefit all races**

To regain the people's support and reward Party members for their contribution to the Party, Dr Chua introduced a series of programmes that utilised the Party resources to help those in need like the 1MCA Medical Foundation, the 1MCA Education Loan Scheme, 1MCA Micro-Credit Loan Scheme for Youth, 1Malaysia Cultural Award, 1Malaysia Community Alliance Foundation and the collaboration with Taiwanese varsities to offer vocational courses to Malaysians.

The Kojadi education loan and Chang Ming Thien Foundation had also offered study loans and scholarships to the public regardless of race.

Under the leadership of Dr Chua, the Party had also introduced the "Tribute to MCA Veterans" angpow, "Happy Mother Project" where an angpow is given to newborn babies of Party members as well as the 1MCA Member Group Insurance Scheme. All these programmes were important strategies aimed at moving Party members and consolidating Party members' votes.

### **The debate between two Party chiefs**

Dr Chua had engaged DAP Secretary-General Lim Guan Eng in a debate on the topic entitled "Malaysian Chinese at the Political Crossroads: Is the Two-Party System Becoming a Two-Race System?" on February 28, 2012. The debate was touted by the media as a "king versus king" debate.

The debate was the first in Malaysian history involving two heavyweight political rivals. The first debate was conducted in Mandarin and broadcasted live. Dr Chua criticised DAP for defending the Islamisation effort pushed by PAS and the conflict between DAP and PAS.

In the second debate entitled "BN and PR: Whose Policies Benefit the Community More?" which was conducted in English, Dr Chua presented BN's direction and policies under the leadership of Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib Razak and criticised Pakatan Rakyat's weaknesses in its administration and financial module.

### **Not defending the President's post to uphold the spirit of accountability**

After MCA suffered its historical loss at the May 5 General Election in 2013, Dr Chua announced the next day that he would not defend his post as Party President. He reiterated his decision on December 4, 2013 to make way for the new leadership to kick start the Party's Transformation efforts.