

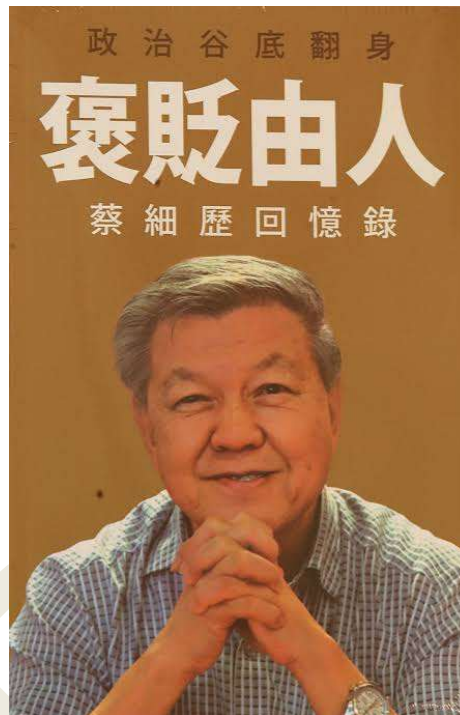
The Story of Chua Soi Lek



**President of the
Malaysian Chinese Association**

Chapter 1:

The Doctor from Batu Pahat - From an English Educated Professional to a Rising MCA Leader



On 2 January 1947, a baby boy was born in Batu Pahat, Johor, Malaya. He was named Soi Lek, and his ancestral roots traced back to Chaozhou in Guangdong Province. The child would later become known as Chua Soi Lek, one of the most controversial figures in the history of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), remembered both as a man who accepted responsibility for his actions and as a political figure who fell from the heights of power only to stage a remarkable comeback.

Chua Soi Lek received an English education from an early age and only later devoted himself to learning Mandarin. During his secondary school years, he studied at Batu Pahat High School and Muar High School before enrolling at the University of Malaya, where he specialised in psychology and psychiatry and graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree.

In 1974, at the age of twenty seven, he began his medical career at the Batu Pahat Government Hospital. Three years later, he left public service to establish his own private medical practice.

In 1979, at the age of thirty two, Chua Soi Lek made a decision that would change the course of his life by joining the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA). He first served as Deputy Youth Chief of the Jementah MCA branch before being elected Branch Chairman. In 1985, he went on to become first the Deputy Chairman and later the Chairman of the Batu Pahat MCA Division, steadily building his reputation within the party. A psychiatrist who had grown up speaking English as his primary language had now entered the arena of Chinese politics.

Chapter 2:

Eighteen Years in Johor Politics - From State Assemblyman to State Executive Councillor

In the 1986 general election, Chua Soi Lek contested for public office for the first time and was elected as the State Assemblyman for the Batu Pahat Town constituency. Over the next four consecutive terms, spanning eighteen years, he successfully defended the seat without defeat.

In 1990, he was re-elected and appointed to the Johor State Executive Council, serving as Chairman of the State Committee for Environment and Consumer Affairs. At the same time, he held several other important positions, including Chairman of the National Consumer Affairs Committee, Chairman of the Johor National Parks Management Committee, and adviser to numerous civic organisations.

In the 1995 state election, Chua Soi Lek was returned as the State Assemblyman for Penggaram with a majority of 14,037 votes. In the 1999 general election, he successfully defended the same constituency, defeating the Democratic Action Party candidate Ngeh Bee Ching with a majority of 13,460 votes.

During his fourteen years in the Johor state government, Chua Soi Lek steadily established himself as one of the MCA's most influential leaders in Johor. In 2002, he succeeded Ling Liong Sik as Chairman of the MCA Johor State Liaison Committee, marking his entry into the party's central leadership.

DRAFT

Chapter 3:

Entering Putrajaya - Chua Soi Lek as Minister of Health

In 2003, Ling Liong Sik retired from politics. At the 2004 general election, Chua Soi Lek shifted from state to federal politics by contesting the Labis parliamentary seat vacated by Ling. He won the election with a majority of 10,729 votes against the Democratic Action Party candidate and was subsequently elected to Parliament. Following the formation of the new Cabinet, he succeeded Chua Jui Meng as Malaysia's Minister of Health.

At the age of fifty seven, Chua Soi Lek had reached the pinnacle of his political career. It had taken him three decades to journey from running a private medical practice to serving as the nation's Minister of Health.

Yet for those who reach the summit, the edge of the cliff is often closest.

Chapter 4:

The Video Scandal - From the Pinnacle to Rock Bottom

At the end of December 2007, a sexually explicit video CD began circulating in Batu Pahat and Muar, Johor. The footage was grainy and blurred, having been recorded in a hotel room, and featured a Chinese man. Copies of the disc were left in residential mailboxes, shops and coffee shops, spreading rapidly throughout the community.

At the time, Chua Soi Lek was attending an event in Sabah. A community leader telephoned him to say that two video discs had been delivered to the association's mailbox, allegedly showing intimate footage of him with a woman. After returning to Kuala Lumpur to watch the recording, Chua made a decision that surprised everyone: he publicly acknowledged that he was the man in the video.

On 1 January 2008, Chua Soi Lek held a press conference in which he admitted that he was the man featured in the explicit video. He apologised to his wife, his three children, the people of Malaysia, his colleagues and his supporters. He stated that the woman in the recording was a close companion but declined to provide further

details. The following day, he announced his resignation from all his positions, including Minister of Health, MCA Deputy President, Member of Parliament for Labis, Chairman of the MCA Johor State Liaison Committee, and Chairman of the MCA Batu Pahat Division.

Many questioned why he had chosen not to deny the allegations or seek shelter behind legal arguments. In his later autobiography, he explained: "Rather than hide behind the protection of the law, I believed it was better to face my mistake with courage and honesty."

The scandal brought an abrupt end to what had appeared to be a flawless political career, but it also marked the beginning of an even more extraordinary political comeback.

Chapter 5:

Judged by Others - A Political Rebirth from the Depths

Following the video scandal, the Chinese language newspaper *Nanyang Siang Pau* conducted an online poll asking whether the public accepted Chua Soi Lek's apology. Chua later wrote, "Many people were unable to log in to the website to vote, and even those who tried to vote 'accept' could not do so." The final result showed that the largest number of votes rejected his apology.

Yet Chua Soi Lek did not disappear from the political stage.

In October 2008, he contested the four corner race for the MCA Deputy Presidency and secured 1,115 votes, defeating the incumbent Secretary General, Ong Ka Chuan, who received 1,001 votes. The victory marked his return to the party's leadership.

In August 2009, the Presidential Council led by Ong Tee Keat voted to expel Chua from the MCA, citing the damage the video scandal had caused to the party's image. A dramatic reversal followed on 10 October that same year when an MCA Extraordinary General Meeting passed a motion of no confidence against Ong Tee Keat

and approved the reinstatement of Chua's party membership, although it rejected the proposal to restore him as Deputy President.

On 28 March 2010, during the MCA Central Committee re election, Chua Soi Lek won 901 votes, defeating the incumbent Ong Tee Keat, who secured 578 votes, and former party president Ong Ka Ting, who received 833 votes. He was elected the ninth President of the MCA. His journey from Minister of Health to the central figure in a sex video scandal, from expulsion from the party to its highest office, made him the first MCA President in the party's history to hold no government position.

Chua titled his autobiography *Like Me or Hate Me: Rising From The Political Ashes*, a name that aptly reflected his extraordinary comeback. In it, he wrote: "I dared to admit it openly because I chose to take responsibility like a man."

Chapter 6:

The Presidency of MCA - Leading Amid Controversy

Chua Soi Lek's tenure as MCA President was marked by decisions that generated considerable controversy. In April 2013, he announced that MCA would lend three parliamentary seats and two state constituencies to the Barisan Nasional component parties United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) and Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC), describing the move as an expression of the "Barisan Nasional spirit." The decision triggered strong dissatisfaction among many MCA grassroots members. On nomination day for the 2013 general election, Chua himself was not nominated to contest any seat, making him the first MCA President in the party's history unable to stand for election.

In the general election held on 5 May 2013, MCA contested 37 parliamentary seats and 90 state constituencies nationwide but secured only seven parliamentary seats and eleven state seats, performing even worse than it had in 2008. Following the election, Chua announced that he would not seek another term as party president and declared that MCA representatives would not accept positions in the federal Cabinet. On 21

December, he delivered his final address as MCA President at the party's General Assembly before formally handing over the leadership. In the preface to his autobiography, he wrote: "What I leave behind is the truth, for future generations to judge."

DRAFT

Conclusion:

A Political Legend Beyond Simple Definition

Chua Soi Lek's life represents one of the most complex and difficult chapters in the history of the Malaysian Chinese Association. He was a medical doctor and a politician, a Minister of Health and the central figure in a sex video scandal, a man expelled from his own party and later the leader who returned to head it. Many Malaysians nicknamed him "Chua CD", a label that carried both ridicule and, for some, a measure of respect for his willingness to accept responsibility for his actions.

He endured relentless public criticism while continuing to command the loyalty of many party members. Although the sex video scandal severely damaged his reputation, his remarkable political resilience enabled him to rise once again to the presidency of the MCA. Lim Chong Meng, Executive Secretary of the MCA Central Leadership Training Bureau, once remarked: "He is a man who fell from the very top, from heaven to hell, and then climbed back from hell to the human world. He is a Malaysian legend."

In 2018, at the age of seventy one, Chua Soi Lek published his autobiography, *Like Me or Hate Me: Rising*

From The Political Ashes, in which he recounted his political career and the controversies that shaped it. As he wrote: "I have always considered myself a person who speaks frankly. This book contains many truths that cannot be seen on the surface."

Few figures in Malaysian politics have carried an indelible moral stain while also demonstrating such extraordinary political resilience. *Like Me or Hate Me* perhaps remains the most fitting reflection of his life and legacy.

Main References

- [1] Wikipedia, "Chua Soi Lek"
- [2] Baidu Baike, "Chua Soi Lek"
- [3] Chinese Wikipedia (Traditional), "Chua Soi Lek"
- [4] Cari Forum, discussions related to Chua Soi Lek
- [5] Lianhe Zaobao, "Former MCA President Chua Soi Lek, Who Resigned Over Sex Video Scandal, to Publish His Autobiography"
- [6] *The Malaysian Insight*, "Sex Video Scandal Ended My Political Career, Says Chua Soi Lek: I Never Stole Public Money, I Only Hurt My Family"