

Headline **Celebrations offer a platform to 'campaign'**
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Celebrations offer a platform to 'campaign'



Letting voters see you and speak to you is always a plus.

*Datuk Donald Lim Siang Chai
PJ Selatan candidate*



Whether the people vote for me is a separate issue.

*Dr Cheah Wing Yin
DAP Damansara Utama aspirant*



I never make any statements that they should vote for me.

*Datuk Tan Chai Ho
FT MCA chief and Bandar Tun Razak incumbent*

Tomorrow, the gregarious Lim has an evening with the Section 14 Residents Association in Petaling Jaya for their Chinese New Year open house, while on Saturday, he'll be at UPM and Section 21 Sea Park Residents Association for their respective Chinese New Year celebrations.

"I'm not campaigning but meeting constituents. I do that every Chinese New Year," he said when asked if it was wrong.

However, Lim conceded the functions provided a platform for him to woo voters.

"Letting voters see you and speak to you is always a plus."

Federal Territory MCA chief and Bandar Tun Razak incumbent Datuk Tan Chai Ho will be partying with the people well after Chap Goh Meh.

He will be distributing aid and ang pow packets on Wednesday to the underprivileged in the constituency.

The affable Tan will host a meet-the-people session in conjunction with Chinese New Year celebrations on nomination day and two days later attend a PPR Kg Muhibbah Chinese New Year do.

"I never make any state-

ments that they should vote for me or support the Barisan Nasional. I just show up and mingle," Tan said.

The DAP's Damansara Utama aspirant, Dr Cheah Wing Yin said the functions offered an opportunity for him to meet voters.

"Whether they vote for me is a separate issue," said Dr Cheah who is making his debut in politics.

He will be attending the SS4 Residents Association Chinese New Year gathering on Sunday.

Independent Chong Hon Min, who won the Sandakan seat in the last polls, said he will be attending a slew of Chinese New Year functions from Wednesday to Saturday.

These included the Chinese New Year open house by the Hakka Association on Wednesday and the Foo Chow Association Chap Goh Meh dinner on Thursday.

Chong said attending these functions would not hurt his chances at the polls.

"It is better for me to be around, hopefully people will see me, get a good impression and vote for me come polling day," he said.

■ **By Eileen Ng**
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Lunar New Year is proving to be heaven-sent for Chinese candidates: festive events have become occasions for subtle election campaigning.

Even though Chap Goh Meh — which traditionally marks the end of the celebrations — falls today, many community-related Chinese New Year functions are still being held until Sunday.

The candidates said the gatherings do not fall foul of the Election Commission rules on campaigning, as they all claim the activities are not a bid for votes.

PJ Selatan candidate and MCA vice-president Datuk Donald Lim Siang Chai is among those on the Chinese New Year wagon.

Today alone, Lim will attend three Chap Goh Meh functions — one at a temple in Section 4, Petaling Jaya, at 11am, Selangor and Federal Territory Teo Chew Association's celebrations at Jalan Ampang (6pm) and the Barisan Nasional Selangor Chinese New Year open house at 8pm in Petaling Jaya.