

Ling: Only AGM can remove MCA president

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By Lee Long Hui

Although 15 party veterans have urged MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek to step down immediately, former head Dr Ling Liong Sik has begged to differ.

NONE Ling said any such decision can only be made during the party's annual general assembly (AGM).

"He was elected by the AGM. I think only the AGM can tell him to step down," Ling (right) told a press conference today.

He was commenting on a call by the veterans, led by former president Tan Koon Swan, who had openly told Chua to take responsibility for the MCA's poor showing in the 13th general election and to resign immediately.

Claiming to be unaware of the identity of the veterans, Ling noted that the MCA should focus on the upcoming party elections and put the general election outcome behind it.

However, he refused to name the individual best suited to succeed Chua, again saying that this will have to be decided at the AGM.

MCA's tally in GE13 was slashed to seven parliamentary and 11 state seats, far worse than the 2008 result when it had obtained 15 parliamentary and 31 state seats.

The party AGM had previously twice endorsed a resolution not to accept any government post if its electoral performance was worse than in 2008.

'Grassroots services'

Ling also said that the MCA should allow grassroots leaders to become village heads and local councillors in order to serve the people.

"This is a huge party. It has service centres throughout the whole country. There are hundreds and thousands of village heads and local council members.

"They have a duty. They are appointed to work, (so) let them continue to work. If they work hard and serve well, then we can see a better day in the future.

“Those holding appointed posts should continue serving, but (elected office) is a separate issue.”

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