

# MCA to bring in new blood for next election

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** MCA will replace its ineffective and long-serving elected representatives in the next general election with new and younger leaders.

"It is not about old guard against young people. We have to bring in new people to modernise the party to move forward in tandem with the globalisation era," said party president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after launching the party's 58th anniversary celebration at Wisma MCA, he said that although there was no guideline on the time limit for MPs and state assemblymen to hang on to their posts, it did not mean that they could hold the position for a long time.

"Certain people can continue to serve since they are still dynamic and effective. We will still support them."

However, he said, there were leaders who were no longer sensitive to the people's comments on them.

"Whoever criticises them is considered their political enemy, while they only like to hear praises from supporters.

"Under such circumstances, a conflict occurs within the team," he said, without naming the



MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting (right) and former vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng at the party's 58th anniversary celebration yesterday. Chua, who is MP for the Bakri constituency in Johor, challenged Ong for the president's post during party elections in 2005.

party leaders.

He said the move was part of a renewal process and to give the younger generation of leaders the opportunity to become elected representatives.

Earlier, Ong, in his speech, said there were leaders who had been holding a particular political post for too long to the extent that they

were no longer creative and lacked initiative to continue to serve the people.

He said that although the MCA had limited the duration of leaders holding the posts of party president, youth head and wanita head, as well as the posts of ministers, state executive councillors, district and municipal council

members, this did not mean that they must hold on up to the maximum term stipulated.

Ong said the party must intensify efforts at modernising itself. At the same time, party members were urged to develop a self-improvement system and to participate in efforts to initiate automatic leadership changes.