

Under-performing MCA reps told to make way

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Ong (third from left), Ling (left) and other MCA leaders cut a cake at the anniversary celebration yesterday.

KUALA LUMPUR: MCA chief Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting yesterday asked the party's elected representatives who are under-performing to voluntarily make way and help groom a new echelon of leaders.

However, he said, the party did not want to set a term limit for MPs and state assemblymen as it wanted the flexibility to deal

with any situation that may arise.

He said setting a limit would tie the party's hands and make it too rigid to make decisions on candidates for election.

MCA had, in 2005, announced a dramatic reform by imposing term limits on the office of its ministers (not more than 10 years or two terms) and state executive councillors and district councillors (not more than three terms).

However, the party president is exempted as he can serve in the top post for a maximum of nine years under constitutional amendments passed in 2005.

At least 120 MCA local councillors would be affected by the decision.

Ong said those who had held a position for a long period and were tired of serving the people and unable to deliver innovative ideas should consider stepping down.

"We will see if the successors are fit to hold the position from their leadership quality and the acceptance of the grassroots members," he told a press conference after celebrating the party's 58th anniversary yesterday.

He said the party respected and appreciated the contributions made by all past and incumbent leaders.

Asked whether this renewal process was designed for the next general election, he said it was on-going one but insisted he was not trying to get rid of the old guard.

"It was not a question of old or young, but we hope they (incumbent leaders) can help to bring in young leaders, to nurture and groom them as it is also part of their responsibility," he said.

Ong said the party would know how to assess if a leader was under-performing and was clinging to a position.

"Do not take these posts for granted, there are limits," he said.

