

**MCA Veterans Urge Dr Chua To Step Down Immediately**  
**Bernama**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 10 (Bernama) - A group of MCA veteran leaders has strongly urged party president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek to step down immediately in taking full responsibility over the party's poor showing in Sunday's 13th general election (GE13).

Confessing that they were saddened and embarrassed by the party's performance in GE13, the group also called for the election of a new party leader to decide on the party's future, especially on the issue of Chinese representation in the government.

The group of 15 MCA elders comprising former presidents Tan Sri Lee San Choon and Tan Koon Swan, former deputy president Tan Sri Lim Ah Lek, former Senate President Tan Sri Michael Chen, former Health Minister Tan Sri Lee Kim Sai and former Chief Administrative Director of MCA Tan Sri Wong Seah Wah.

Others are former Penang MCA chief Tan Sri Dr Sak Cheng Lum, former treasurer general Tan Sri Lau Yin Pin, Datuk Jimmy Lau, former presidential council member Datuk Fu Ah Kiow, Datuk Wong See Chin, Datuk Wong Kam Hong, Datuk Freddie Long, Datuk Seri Kee Yong Wee and Wang Choon Wing.

"We are gently asking our president to kindly step down and allow new leaders to reform, revive and resuscitate the party.

"We have no personal agenda here nor are we against Dr Chua personally. We are just appealing for the sake of our love for party and the community," said the group spokesman Tan Koon Swan, in a joint news conference, here, Friday.

MCA suffered one of its worst electoral outing when it only managed to cling to seven Parliamentary and 11 state seats GE13, reduced by more than half that it had won in 2008.

Meanwhile, at an extra-ordinary general meeting held in 2011, the party passed a resolution that it would not accept any government posts should it perform worse than in the 12th general election in 2008.

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"Let the new party leader decide whether or not MCA representatives should accept government posts," said Lee.

The elders also urged MCA members not to abandon the party at this juncture despite acknowledging that many party members had also voted the party out in GE13.

"We are appealing to members not to abandon ship but continue to have faith in the party. We appeal to them to return to the party, come in, come back to reform and revive the party and continue to serve the community.

"MCA is inherently a strong party, with vast resources, a proud history of successes and a well-built infrastructure, we therefore ask all members and the Chinese community not to lose faith but to return to rebuild, reform and revive the party," Tan said.

To a question whether the party, which had in recent years been mired in internal and external conflicts, can revive itself, Tan said he and other elders were hopeful of this prospect.

Despite the GE12 and GE13 results showing that majority of the Chinese community had abandoned party, the veterans insisted MCA was still relevant to them in today's changing political landscape.

Meanwhile, Lim said: "If we think that MCA is not relevant, we won't be here.

"The most important is the image of the president must be acceptable. I myself have been going to the ground to get closer to the Chinese community during campaigning for GE1, that is what they want.

He added that image was paramount and that the people would not listen to a leader with a tarnished image and that it was best that MCA be left to younger leaders to rebuild itself.

The elders also admitted the Chinese community was frustrated over numerous issues including corruption, safety and justice, and MCA's failure to address them properly had been one of the reasons that caused the party huge defeat.

"We are aware of it, why the Chinese are abandoning MCA. I think frustration of the community has been aptly exploited by the opposition," Tan said.

Meanwhile, Tan said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was a leader who valued the contribution of the Chinese community to the country, and thus believed that the premier would still consider appointing Chinese representatives in his Cabinet.

To another question, he opined that the interest of Chinese community in the government was better represented by the community itself as had been practiced by the Barisan Nasional since its formation.

"Every race in the country is very well represented in Barisan Nasional. We have to work

together hand in hand for the betterment of the nation.

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