

**I Will Leave At Appropriate Moment - MCA President  
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Chua Soi Lek, who will not defend his post in the party's upcoming election this year, will not bow to pressure to step down now.

Saying that he would take responsibility for the party's dismal performance at the 13th General Election, he said he would leave at an appropriate moment, after putting the party in order.

He has given himself a timeline of between June and December this year.

"I will not go off (leave) just because a few people asked me to step down. I can understand these people are people who probably love the party but there are also the majority who want me to stay.

"But I am accountable and responsible for the poor results of the MCA. Anytime between June and December, I can decide to go off," he told reporters after chairing the MCA Presidential Council meeting at Wisma MCA here today.

Voices of dissent in the MCA grew louder, including that of a group of party elders who demanded that Dr Chua quit, following his failure to lead the party to better results in the just-concluded 13th General Election (GE13).

MCA suffered its most humiliating defeat when it only managed to secure seven parliamentary and 11 state seats in the GE13 on May 5 - a reduction of more than half of what it had won in the general election 2008.

"I am accountable and responsible for MCA's poor results. But I am not the only one who is wholly responsible, but because I am the (party) president, I have to take responsibility," he noted.

He said the council also decided to appoint party deputy president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai to head a special task force to map out a new direction for the party.

Dr Chua also announced that the council agreed to expedite the party's polls and it would begin next month for the branch and division levels, while election for the main body was expected to be held in October.

For that, he said party secretary-general Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha was appointed to head a committee to oversee the election process.

On any report of internal sabotage during the GE13, the MCA president said it would be referred to the party's disciplinary board.

"We welcome people affected by the sabotage to lodge a complaint but it must be accompanied with evidence," he said.

Met by reporters later, Liow said, besides setting a new direction for the party, the task force would also discuss the issue of Chinese representation by non-political figures in

government.

He said the task force was expected to hold its first meeting next week.

"I hope we can come out with a report and present it to the Central Committee, as soon as possible," he said.

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