

MCA's direction more important than party polls, says Soi Lek
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MCA leaders have been urged to focus on the party's direction in wake of its massive losses in the 13th General Election rather than on the coming party polls.

Its president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek (pic) said the leaders had a responsibility to come up with ways to up the morale of division leaders and members despite the heavy losses.

MCA won only seven parliamentary and 11 state seats in the May 5 polls and stood by its decision not to accept any government posts in view of its performance in the elections.

"We have division leaders who want to quit and walk away. So, we are also responsible to find suitable successors," Dr Chua said.

"What is important now is to think of our next step after our losses and not keep talking about party elections and who will or will not be the party president," Staronline reported him as saying after attending former Gelang Patah MP Tan Ah Eng's wake in Kota Tinggi yesterday.

Dr Chua revealed that he has discussed with his deputy - Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai - on what steps to take in order to hold the party together and foster unity among its members.

He noted that the people, in particular the Chinese, were not looking for leaders who merely looked at the community's problems but those who would take a stand on bigger issues.

"Gone are the days when a politician can gain good branding by providing good service to the people, interact with voters and understand grassroots problems. If MCA leaders still follow these old-fashioned ways, they will again be disappointed," he added.

He promised that in the presidential council committee meeting today, he would be appointing leaders to take charge in voicing out several national issues, such as the nation's security problems and the issue of excellent students who had failed to gain entry into public universities.

He also called on MCA leaders not to "air their dirty laundry in public", pointing out that the problems should be kept within the party. - August 14, 2013.

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