

"Weak" Liow not fit to lead MCA, must quit with me, says party president
Malaysian Insider
Oct 11 , 2013
By EILEEN NG

Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek is willing to step down as MCA president but on the condition that his deputy Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai does the same.

Chua said Liow is not fit to lead the party as the latter is "weak", and feels that new faces at the helm will rejuvenate the party.

"I'm willing to go but Liow has to go as well. He is not the right person to lead MCA in this challenging environment.

"He is weak and indecisive," he told reporters at the party's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur today.

Both Chua and Liow have been embroiled in a war of words for months after Liow had called his boss a "spin doctor", "tainted politician" and "dictator".

Liow is facing a move to censure him at next Sunday's extraordinary general meeting (EGM) where, he claimed, Chua would be out to get him.

The EGM also seeks to overturn the party's previous stand of not taking up government posts since it performed badly in the 13th general election.

At the May 5 national polls, the MCA only managed to win seven out of 37 federal seats and 11 out of 90 state seats it contested.

Chua said after working with his deputy for four years, he found Liow not to be a fighter and someone who tended to avoid major issues.

"He kept saying Chua Soi Lek was trying to bully him, accusing me of being tainted.

"If he cannot handle Chua Soi Lek, how is he going to handle an aggressive opposition and Umno.

"How is he going to function if he cannot even stop his supporters from washing dirty linen in public?"

Chua said he had no problems letting go of the presidency as he loves the party more than his post.

"This is an acid test for Liow to show his love for the party, as claimed by him all along, rather than providing mere lip service," he said.

Chua said it is his duty to hand over the party to capable, visionary leaders who have the guts to do what is required to renew and reform the party.

If it is handed to Liow, he'll turn MCA into another Gerakan

He said the party has many capable up-and-coming young leaders who have shown

leadership capabilities to take MCA forward.

"If it is handed to Liow, he'll turn MCA into another Gerakan," he said in reference to the multi-racial Barisan Nasional component party that is considered toothless by many.

Gerakan fared even worse than MCA in the 13th general election, winning only one federal and two state seats.

Chua said the party needed young leaders to take over in order to remain relevant.

Noting that by 2016, there will be an estimated 16 million voters of which seven million will be 30 years old and below, Chua said young leaders will be able to relate to the younger voters. - October 11, 2013.

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