

Despite flak from Gerakan, Dr Chua defends his remarks
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MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek(pic) has defended his remarks that the party will become another Gerakan if his deputy, Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, takes over as leader.

"I can't take MCA and compare it with MIC or Umno, so I used a Chinese based party that tries to packaged itself as a multi-racial party as comparison.

"I admit this is an unfortunate but correct comparison," he was quoted as saying by Chinese newspaper Sin Chew Daily after meeting delegates in Johor, defending his reference to Gerakan.

His remarks came a day after Gerakan acting president Datuk Chang Ko Youn blasted Dr Chua for dragging his party into MCA's internal squabble.

"Dr Chua should step down to take responsibility for MCA's losses, which caused Gerakan's loss in the general election," Chang had said.

He also told Dr Chua to go "look at himself in the mirror" – he used a Chinese saying which means one does not talk bad about others when one has shortcomings.

Both Gerakan and MCA are members of the ruling Barisan Nasional pact.

In rebuking Chang for asking him to quit, Dr Chua retorted that Chang should go look at himself in the mirror first before accusing others.

Moreover, Chang has no standing to ask him to quit, as he is only an acting president, Dr Chua said.

"I had announced I will not seek re-election to accept responsibility for the losses. However, he lost but he did not resign from his party posts. Instead, he asked members to give him a chance to become Gerakan president."

Meanwhile, Kedah Gerakan youth chief Tan Keng Liang rebuked Dr Chua for dragging others into "the mess" in MCA, pointing out that it was against Barisan Nasional's (BN) spirit.

He said in the May general election, BN was rejected by the majority of Chinese voters due to the failure of the MCA.

Tan reminded Dr Chua to focus his energies on helping BN recapture the support of the Chinese community.

"Don't make things worse for BN. If Dr Chua is unable to resolve his party problem and assist BN to recapture support from the Chinese community, then he should step aside and let other leaders in MCA to do so," he said in a statement.

Both Chua and Liow have been embroiled in a war of words for months during which 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 because 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 of the 90 state seats it contested.

Two days ago, Dr Chua had said he is willing to go on the condition that Liow does the same as the latter is "weak" and "indecisive".

Liow spurned the offer. - October 13, 2013.

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