

Dr Cheah Toon Lock (Acting President from July 1959 – November 1961)



He became the Acting President of the MCA in 1959 after the resignation of Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu. Dr Cheah's immediate task was to consolidate the party and resolve the various problems which arose during Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu's presidency.

His first job was to meet the Tunku, who was then the Alliance Chairman, to defuse the tension between the MCA and UMNO. Immediately after that, he called an emergency meeting of the Party and resolved that MCA would contest in the general elections under the Alliance banner.

Despite the party crisis, MCA candidates continued to win support from the voters. Twenty MCA candidates were voted into the first Parliament after Merdeka. Four of them were subsequently appointed to the Cabinet.

Dr Cheah's contribution was in steering the party out of the crisis during the difficult period after Tun Dr. Lim left. He was the Acting President for two years and at the MCA Annual General Assembly in November 1961, he did not seek re-election. He was succeeded by Tun Tan Siew Sin