

RULES TO

Reports by
LEE
BOON SIEW

26 AUG 1985
Draft to be submitted
to ad-hoc MCA
committee to
ensure smooth
running of elections

THE ad-hoc committee recognised by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the legitimate leadership of the MCA will consider an expanded set of election rules to counter 23 tricks used in previously aborted elections.

Committee member Ng Cheng Kiat said he will submit the draft rules to the committee for consideration at a meeting on Nov 28.

He said there is already a set of rules governing the conduct of branch and division elections but experience has shown them to be ineffective in certain circumstances.

For example, some branches do not open on nomination day and in others, the branch secre-

tary disappears on that day.

As a result, names of nominees cannot be submitted to the secretary, thus frustrating the bids of certain potential candidates.

Another malpractice is the manipulation of clocks. This is to bar last-minute candidates from contesting elections. The nomination deadline is 6 pm and to frustrate the candidates, some branch officials manipulate the clock at the branch premises.

Some branches had tried to hold elections in the past two years but these were aborted following a Supreme Court injunction which stopped all branch and divisional elections and declared those who had done so null and void.

"I can't tell you all the 23 ways or else those who don't already know of them will use them next time," said Mr Ng when pressed for details.

An improved set of rules is necessary to ensure that grassroot elec-

tions are smoothly carried out leading to the party elections on Nov 24.

Mr Ng also reported to the 2,000-strong *Save the Party* assembly yesterday at the Thean Hou Temple in Kuala Lumpur that the committee has accepted the list of members given by the headquarters under the court order.

Fears

"We are using this list as the basis for verifying the membership and we will consider all complaints at the headquarters.

"The accounting firm of Peat, Marwick and Mitchell has already sent out letters of verification," said Mr Ng. However, he could immediately say how many letters had been sent out.

On fears expressed by some delegates whether

the ad-hoc committee will succeed in its work, Mr Ng said the headquarters has been "very co-operative" since last week.

"Even Datuk Mak Hon Kam and Datuk Dr Tan Tiong Hong have both said they would co-operate in the task of verification.

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I urge both to go more often to the headquarters to help the secretariat instead of going to Wisma MPI (Datuk Mak's office)."

Mr Ng said he personally feels that if the committee is unable to make much progress, it should not "wait until the last minute to admit so."

"If in the next two weeks the final membership list is not ready, the committee should hand it over to an extraordinary general meeting for a decision or else the committee will be blamed," he said.