

MCA to be given Ampang seat: PM

By K.H. LIM

AYER KEROH, Sat. — The Barisan Nasional will allow the MCA to put up a candidate for the Ampang Jaya parliamentary seat Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The seat fell vacant yesterday with the resignation of Dr Lim Ann Koon.

Speaking to reporters after attending the silver jubilee celebrations of the Community Development Department (Kemas) at the expo site here, the Barisan Nasional chairman said he had not received any official notification of the resignation.

"I only heard that he has resigned. I have not got details."

Asked if the MCA would be allocated the seat in the by-election, he said: "It's an MCA constituency, MCA-lah."

He declined comment on conditions imposed by member of parliament for Johore Baru Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad before accepting the offer of a Umno supreme council seat.

"I don't want to debate through the newspapers."

Speaking to Kemas officers

earlier, the Prime Minister said the time had come for more organised methods of production of handicraft by villagers.

He said each kampung should have a centralised factory or workshop where production of handicraft could be carried out systematically.

He said at present each villager would work on handicraft on a casual basis with no work discipline and no fixed working hours.

He suggested the central workshop for each kampung would focus on handicraft acti-

□ I AM TIRED, SAYS
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vity in one area where villagers could work undisturbed.

He said a systematic and reliable schedule of production would make buyers confident they would get adequate and constant supply of handicraft.

He said such village factories or workshops need not be fanciful as they only served as a focus of activity.

"In fact such a workshop can even be created under a kam-

pung house but they should be centralised and organised properly."

Dr Mahathir also spoke of Malaysian handicraft, saying there was no problem of overseas demand. Moreover, he added, various Government agencies were helping to market the items.

He also said it was now the main concern of Kemas to improve the standard of living in rural areas.

He said since its establishment 25 years ago, Kemas had achieved considerable success in that area.

On further improving the rural way of life, he said the Government would want to restructure traditional villages in the country.

The restructuring programme, called the *rancangan kampung tersusun*, would facilitate the provision of Government services because kampung houses would be well planned, he added.

He reminded his audience that Malaysia was a rich country in terms of natural resources but that nothing could be achieved without hard work and proper attitudes.