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AH LEK STILL MUM OVER BENTONG SEAT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 16 (Bernama) -- MCA deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek is still mum over whether he will be defending his Bentong parliamentary seat in the general election on Nov 29.

"Wait until the nomination day on Nov 20," he told reporters after meeting Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank (HSBC) staff who were picketing outside the bank's headquarters, here, during lunch time.

Lim said it did not matter whether he would be contesting as he believed that Barisan Nasional (BN) would win again with a big majority.

"My name is not important, the party is and the decision is not mine alone," said Lim, who is the Human Resource Minister.

The Star today quoted a report from Chinese daily last week that Lim might give way to his political secretary, Liow Tiong Lai, if the latter could not secure a seat.

An aide to Lim said the final list of MCA candidates was expected to be announced either today or tomorrow after a meeting between the party's leaders with BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Lim, 57, had been rumoured to be retiring since the last general election in 1995.

-- BERNAMA

YBK JK