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MCA-Nominations

ALL EYES ON VP FIGHT IN MCA POLLS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 12 (Bernama) -- Nominations for the MCA election on Saturday closed today with the party's top two returned unopposed, thus putting the focus on the vice-presidential contest.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and his deputy Datuk Lim Ah Lek got to keep their posts for another three-year term, but five people are vying for the four posts of vice-presidents.

This is the fifth term for Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, since becoming party chief in 1986.

Lim, the Human Resources Minister, is into his second term, having taken over uncontested three years ago from Datuk Lee Kim Sai.

Incumbent vice-presidents Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting, Deputy Education Minister Datuk Fong Chan Onn and Serdang Member of Parliament Datuk Yap Pian Hon are challenged by outgoing Youth chief Datuk Chan Kong Choy.

Compromise seemed to be the order of the day for most of the other posts up for grabs at the polls.

Initially, a contest was in store for the 25-member Central Committee posts when 27 nominations were received.

But it fizzled out when two of the candidates withdrew their nominations today.

A total of 2,411 delegates, including 296 women, will attend the party's annual general meeting which has the polls as the main attraction. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the meeting.

The Youth chief's post to be vacated by Chan will see a straight fight between Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Loke Yuen Yow and Youth secretary-general and Dewan Rakyat Deputy Speaker Datuk Ong Tee Kiat.

There will also be no contest for the Youth's four vice-chairman posts as only four nominations were received. Those elected unopposed are Chua Kim Chuan, Loh Seng Kok, Tan Chin Ming and Liew Yuen Keong.

Hoo Seong Chang was elected unopposed as Youth deputy chairman and Yew Teong Look as secretary-general.

The movement's 20 committee members' posts attracted 24 candidates.

Incumbent Wanita chief Datuk Teng Gaik Kwan did not seek re-election, paving the way for a straight fight between her deputy Dr Tan Yee Kew and secretary-general Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen.

But both Dr Tan and Dr Ng were also nominated for the deputy chairman's post under a unique arrangement which allows the loser in the contest for top post to automatically become the deputy chairman.

Twenty people are vying for seats in the 15-member Wanita executive committee.

Meanwhile, Dr Ling thanked all party leaders and members for retaining him and Lim in the two top posts.

He said although there were contests for some other positions, they were family affairs.

"I am also very happy because there is no money politics, (candidates) not doing bad things to each other, no flying letters," he said.

He said all the incumbents were doing very well in their party and government posts.

The election results for both the Youth and Wanita wings will be known on July 16 and for the central committee on July 17.

-- BERNAMA

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