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MCA, Gerakan may swap seats

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MALACCA, Sat. - MCA and Gerakan may swap some seats in the general election.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said this arrangement was likely in areas "where MCA may win but Gerakan will lose or vice-versa".

However, he said MCA would retain 90 per cent of both its parliamentary and State seats.

"BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the ratio would remain. However, if we feel we can win in certain areas or Gerakan will lose, or vice-versa, we will swap seats. However, it is still up to Dr Mahathir to decide on this."

Among the areas where the arrangement is likely to be carried out is the Federal Territory.

Dr Ling held a closed-door meeting with State party leaders tonight on the election preparations and the State MCA list of candidates.

Dr Ling also said about 10 per cent of party representatives in the election would be first-timers.

"These new-comers have been working hard for the party for the last five years. To us, they are the party's best assets."

Dr Ling also said incumbent party leaders "who are still active" would not be dropped. "There are a few who wanted to be dropped but if they are still active, we will not allow them to retire yet."

Dr Ling added that Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional and Umno president, would be calling him up in one or two days to finalise the names of MCA candidates.

Expressing his satisfaction with the election preparations by all State MCA branches, Dr Ling said "all the things that are necessary to be done have been done".

On Malacca MCA's chances to win in Kota Melaka, he said the voters were "fed up" with the DAP which had done nothing to help them for the past 30 years.

"The MCA has carried out a lot of work on educational, sports, religious and many other issues affecting the Chinese community. We have also worked well together with other BN component parties to bring about development to the people."

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