

04 DEC 1999

Ting-Gerakan

NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE IN ACCEPTING GERAKAN PAIR - TING

GOPENG, Dec 4 (Bernama) -- The MCA, which has expressed willingness to accept two Pulau Pinang assemblymen who resigned from Gerakan, said today it does not have any ulterior motive.

Its secretary-general Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said the decision was in line with the party's "open door" policy of accepting any Malaysian of Chinese origin.

"We didn't snatch anybody from other parties...people who join us would have left their previous parties," he told reporters after visiting the Gopeng and Kopisan Baru markets here.

Dr Ting, who was reelected as the MP for Gopeng, said that although there were reports that the two assemblymen would be joining the MCA he had not received any information on the matter.

The assemblymen -- Lim Chien Aun (Bayan Lepas) and Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) -- resigned from Gerakan on Thursday saying they had lost confidence in the party's leadership.

Dr Ting said that it would be the MCA central committee which would decide whether to accept the two assemblymen.

Asked who would be appointed the next chief minister of Pulau Pinang, he said that would be determined by Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"MCA, in all matters including the appointment of state executive councillors and cabinet ministers, participates in all discussions and gives its views. We accept everything that is decided by Dr Mahathir," he said.

-- BERNAMA

hj sk