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Renegade MCA members will face expulsion

TAWAU, Fri. - MCA members contesting as independents or representing Opposition political parties in the coming State elections will be expelled.

MCA secretary-general Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said as Barisan Nasional component members, it was the responsibility of all MCA leaders and members to ensure victory for the coalition's candidates and not contest against them.

Speaking to reporters after attending a dinner organised by Tawau MCA division, here last night, he said: "Contesting against BN in the elections is not permitted under the party's constitution."

Among those who attended the dinner were Tawau MCA divisional chairman Dr Charlie Chang, Senator Datuk Geoffrey Yee Lung Fook, local MCA leaders and representatives of other BN component parties.

However, Ting, who is also Housing and Local Government Minister, said applications by members who had left and wanted to re-join the party would be given consideration.

Recently, several MCA members, including its State Wanita chief Christine Liew, left MCA. There was also speculation that several MCA members would contest as independents if they are not fielded in the coming polls.

Ting said although MCA is a component of the State BN, it would leave the number of seats for the party to contest to the discretion of Prime Minister and national BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said MCA would not openly request for particular seats to contest but would offer candidates for areas where the party felt it had a good chance of winning.

"MCA will abide by the leadership's decision ... we only want to ensure that the party plays its role in ensuring all BN candidates win in the State elections," he said.

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