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Wanita MIC working towards consensus on two slots in CWC

KUALA LUMPUR. Sun. - Wanita MIC leaders are working towards a consensus on the candidates for the two slots allocated to the wing in the party central working committee.

A source said senior members were not too keen on an election as this could lead to politicking.

"It is likely that there will not be a contest as most of the Wanita members do not want to see politicking within the movement," the source told the New Straits Times.

Elections will be held at the two-day party assembly to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on May 27 at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The Wanita MIC assembly will be held at PWTC on May 21.

Under an amendment to the party constitution during the MIC's general assembly last August, the Wanita wing will be able to elect two members to the CWC.

Previously, women leaders contesting for a CWC seat had to compete with male candidates who had a better chance of winning.

The CWC has two women at present - Wanita head Senator Jeya Pathiban (appointed by virtue of her Wanita post) and former Kapar MP Dr G. Leela Rama (who was elected in the 1997 election).

The source said the two to be endorsed by the wing are likely to be State Assemblywoman for Kota Raja, Kamala Ganapathy, who is also its secretary and Kapar MP Komala Krishnamoorthy, currently Wanita council member.

"Since both the leaders hold important positions, they are thought to be the right candidates for the posts."

The source said while the chances of them being returned unopposed was quite high, there might be other Wanita leaders interested in competing.

"However, chances are that they will eventually decide not to contest to respect the decision made by the Wanita wing."

The source added that possible contenders are likely to be senior Wanita members Tan Sri Devaki Krishnan and Kamalachee Arumugam, who are both Wanita council members.

"Another possibility is P. Mariayee from Negri Sembilan who is the only woman leader currently holding a divisional chairman post," said the source adding that Mariayee lost by a narrow margin in the 1997 election.

The source added that it was unlikely that Dr Leela would defend her post as her chances of winning appeared slim.

"In the previous election, Dr Leela's strength was her position as an MP but she no longer holds the post and thus it might be hard for her to retain her seat," said the source.

Meanwhile, Komala when contacted, said it was premature to comment on whether she would contest.

"I am considering it seriously but I have yet to decide as branch meetings will only be held next month. Of course, as elected representatives, we would be more effective if we could sit in the central working committee which decides on the party's struggles and direction," said Komala who is also the Selangor Wanita MIC head.

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