

# Chua: Those who disputed Nanyang deal **SUN** - 7 JUL 2001 not pro-opposition

**SUNGAI PETANI, Fri:** Certain quarters in the MCA are accusing members disputing the RM230 million takeover of Nanyang Press Holdings Bhd of working with the Opposition.

"Such accusations are undermining the party's ongoing efforts to close ranks after last month's emergency general meeting (EGM)," said vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng.

Chua, who is the health minister, said it is important for the party to heed calls by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, party president (Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik) and other leaders to maintain unity.

"Party unity is of concern now . . . We must regard all as good comrades regardless of their stand on the Nanyang takeover issue.

"The dissent within the party ranks should be acknowledged as some 46.3% of the party's central delegates objected.

"To distort or downplay the objection may result in further split in the party," said Chua after officiating the Kedah MCA Youth convention at a hotel here.

Asked on a third party's interest to buy MCA's stake in Nanyang "Press, Chua

said: "The party had settled the issue internally while the larger issue concerns the Chinese community

"So those vested with the powers should be left to make a decision."

On views that certain leaders should vacate their positions to mend the rift, Chua said the EGM only discussed the Nanyang "purchase and it had nothing to do with vacating positions, so the matter is not an issue in this context.

Chua said the proposed July 12 MCA Youth central committee (CC) emergency meeting announced by 24 of 46 CC members led by secretary-general Yew Teong Lok is unconstitutional.

"The group cannot call for the meeting (to discuss the legality of the June 23 Youth EGM) as the CC answers to the Youth's general assembly, which is the highest authority for the movement.

Chua said another EGM should be called or wait until the Aug 10 MCA Youth annual general assembly to resolve the matter.

"Those who disapprove should respect the decision of the EGM, in which 95.6% of the delegates voted to oppose the takeover of Nanyang Press."