

# Ling: I will head polls campaign

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**PENANG,** Wed: MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik announced today he will take charge of the party's Indera Kayangan by-election campaign.

Ling said he welcomed Youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat's proposal that he leads the by-election committee as it "gives hope, unity, cooperation, and the chance to struggle for a common objective, that is a victory for BN in Indera Kayangan".

Ong made the proposal at the Indera Kayangan operations room yesterday

and said that by leading the campaign, it is hoped that Ling will be able to unite MCA's warring factions.

The by-election is being called following the death of Indera Kayangan assemblyman Datuk Khor Liang Tee last Wednesday.

Ling told a press conference at the Bukit Jambul Country Club he is confident the main body and its Youth and Wanita wings will close ranks and converge at Indera Kayangan with "one voice, heart and motivation".

He declined to reveal MCA's strategy for the by-election, but said it will obtain feedback from the component parties on the

challenges facing BN.

He said too much time was spent on internal bickering and the two factions, known as Team A and Team B, must now come together to organise the campaign.

Ling said it did not cross his mind to head the by-election committee until Ong suggested it, as he has yet to submit the list of proposed candidates to the prime minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

After the state liaison committee meeting yesterday, he announced that he has received the names of four proposed candidates.

On the party's chances, Ling said: "I am very, very

confident that with the BN representative's good service, in that constituency, and with a very active menteri besar, the BN candidate will get the support of the people again."

Ling also rejected claims that the conflict in the party will affect the voters' support for the BN in Indera Kayangan as there are only "one or two leaders with differences in opinion in Perlis".

Asked if the crisis within the party has been resolved, Ling said it will be good for the members to "minimise their political differences and maximise their similarities" during the by-election campaign.