

Ong welcomes patch-up advice

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KANGAR: MCA Youth chairman Datuk Ong Tee Keat has not ruled out the possibility that the Indera Kayangan by-election could help patch up differences in the party.

Responding to a call by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim to MCA to see the by-election as a platform to reunite, Ong said:

"I must say this is a very good piece of advice.

"It clearly reflects the aspiration of our supporters, Barisan Nasional leaders and our partners (to see an united MCA).

"It is timely for us to heed such advice."

He said in view of this, he was proposing that party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik be MCA's by-election committee chief.

"My proposal is for the sake of maintaining the integrity of the party. I am willing to be led in the election campaign by the president himself," he said.

Asked if he agreed that the by-election could patch things up between the "feuding" factions in the MCA, he said:

"Everything needs some time to sort out. It all depends on the magnitude of the problem.

"I think we are all matured enough to work hard for the Barisan in this particular by-election to ensure we can retain the seat with a bigger majority."

He was speaking to reporters after

meeting MCA leaders at the Indera Kayangan MCA office here yesterday.

Asked on his impending meeting with the Prime Minister, he said he was expecting the meeting to be held before the by-election.

Shahidan Kassim rebutted claims by the opposition that Perlis Umno was facing a split, saying that all was well in the state.

"Who says Umno here is split? Of

course there are normal problems in the party but that does not mean that it is a split," he said.

Shahidan said the appointment of Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, as a by-election campaign co-director did not mean that Dr Mahathir did not trust him.

He was asked for comments on Parti Keadilan Nasional vice-president Azmin Ali's allegations that Perlis Umno was facing a split.