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Central committee to hold EGM on Saturday

MALACCA, Tues. - The MCA's central working committee will hold its extraordinary general meeting on Saturday to discuss Article 150 brought up by eight party leaders who claimed the takeover of Nanyang Press Holdings is against the party's constitution.

Party president and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said although MCA's lawyers were convinced that the takeover of Nanyang Press was legal and had not violated the party's constitution, the EGM was necessary to reinforce that decision.

"Based on clause 174 of the party constitution, any final dispute would have to be decided by the central committee.

"Any decision made by the central committee is final and should be accepted by party members.

"I hope that the 'Group of Eight' will accept the decision which will be made at the CWC's EGM on Saturday," he said.

Dr Ling was speaking to reporters after meeting party members in Malacca to explain the takeover of Nanyang Press.

Also present were vice-presidents Datuk Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn and State MCA chief Datuk Wira Gan Boon Leong.

Dr Ling likened the "Group of Eight" led by his deputy Datuk Lim Ah Lek as "playing soccer and shifting goal posts from one end to the other" in trying to find faults about the takeover.

He said he was confident with the advice of the party's lawyers that the takeover of Nanyang Press was legal.

However, the "Group of Eight" claimed otherwise despite the party having deciding earlier to hold the delegates' EGM on Sunday over the matter.

Following this, the CWC's EGM would seek a solution once and for all.

"I do not want to see the EGM on Sunday to be overshadowed by the Article 150 raised by the 'Group of Eight'.

"Following this, all delegates must decide on Sunday whether they are for or against the takeover of Nanyang. They should not be overshadowed by issues pertaining to Article 150, as that will be decided by the CWC's EGM on Saturday," he said.

On comments by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that he wants the issue to be resolved, Dr Ling said it would be up to the MCA's board of directors in its investment arm, Huaren Holdings Sdn Bhd, to decide on this.

"They (Huaren board members) are the businessmen in the party while we (the leaders) are merely politicians," he said.

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