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Dr Ling leaving matter to State party officials

PUTRAJAYA, Wed. - MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik is leaving it to party officials in Selangor to sort out the problem of phantom branches.

Dr Ling, who is also State MCA chairman, said the party would not condone anything that was illegal or which went against the party's constitution.

"I leave it those who are competent. Let them be very clear that all procedures have been followed. Those which have not followed procedures can either rectify ... there is still time," Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, told reporters at his office here.

He said no time-frame was given to resolve the matter but it should be done as soon as possible. The 18 branches said to be affected are in Petaling Jaya Utara which is headed by Dr Wong Sai Hou. An extraordinary general meeting has been called by the 18 branches to resolve the matter.

Asked if Dr Wong had asked to see him about the matter, Dr Ling said: "Not at all."

On whether the issue was worrisome, he said the party had 167 divisions and it would be worrying if the majority of them were affected.

Dr Ling was also asked about a report stating that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's political secretary, Matthias Chang Wen Chieh, had called on Chinese leaders to resolve issues directly with Dr Mahathir instead of issuing memorandums. Dr Ling said there was nothing wrong in doing so as Dr Mahathir was always willing to listen.

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