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I was sabotaged, says Youth chief

Sheridan Mahavera

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - MCA Youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat today claimed that he was sabotaged by `Team A' members in the Lunas and Likas by-elections but will not allow it to recur in Indera Kayangan.

He said the sabotage which occurred in Lunas and Likas was aimed at undermining his involvement and contributions in the by-election campaign.

"Let's just say that once bitten, twice shy. Everyone must be sincere in their efforts to ensure a Barisan Nasional victory.

"Everyone has different strategies and therefore they can work independently for the good of BN."

In Lunas for example, Ong alleged, his efforts to convene a Youth central committee (CC) meeting before the polling day of the by-election last year was obstructed due to opposition from `Team A' members, especially by then youth secretary-general Yew Teong Look, over the venue for the meeting.

BN lost the Lunas by-election to Parti Keadilan Nasional.

In Likas, Ong claimed, his efforts to assist the BN candidate were hampered when Yew called for a CC meeting (in Kuala Lumpur) on nomination day without consulting him on the date and venue of the meeting.

"I had already made my intentions clear that I was going to be in Likas to help with the campaign. When they announced (the CC meeting), I opposed it on grounds that I could not be present.

"However, they went ahead with it," he said.

In Likas, BN retained the seat when its candidate defeated Keadilan, Parti Bersatu Sabah and an independent candidate.

Asked if the experience in Lunas and Likas had led to his rejection of his appointment as MCA Youth chairman for the Indera Kayangan by-election campaign, Ong said:

"It's not that I don't want to work with them, but I am quite wary of the appointment.

"As it is, they had already branded me as a criminal by endorsing the veterans committee report but now, they want me to head the by-election campaign."

On Saturday, Ong was chosen to lead the MCA Youth committee for the Indera Kayangan by-election.

On the proposed meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Ong said he was looking forward to it to enable him to clear his name and to fulfil promises that he had made to the Prime Minister after their first meeting in Alor Star on Dec 13.

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