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MCA studying Dr M's proposal to bar the rich from contesting

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - MCA is studying Umno's proposal to bar "rich individuals" from contesting party posts as part of the measures to curb money politics.

MCA secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh said although money politics was not serious in the party, there was a need to prevent it from getting out of hand.

"MCA has not received any complaints of leaders using money to influence votes. As a preventive measure, we would also like to look into Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's proposals," added Ting.

Ting, who is also Port Klang Authority chairman, was speaking after a signing ceremony between the authority and several shipping companies.

During the 1996 and 1999 party elections, Ting said MCA had drawn up guidelines to prevent the use of money to influence votes.

Among other requirements, aspirants to the party posts were not allowed to organise dinners to gain influence or fish for votes using cash.

"This is to ensure that members can exercise their votes democratically without being influenced by money," Ting, who is former Housing and Local Government Minister added.

On how successful MCA's preventive measures were during the last two party polls, Ting said: "If no complaint is an indication, then you can say it is successful."

On Saturday, Dr Mahathir, said the rich could be prohibited from contesting for party posts.

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