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Ling-Indera Kayangan

MCA TO SUBMIT BY-ELECTION NOMINEE LIST TO DR MAHATHIR

KANGAR, Dec 21 (Bernama) -- The MCA is not letting internal squabbling to affect the party's preparations to help the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition defend the Indera Kayangan state seat in Perlis.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said Malaysians and the Chinese in particular have no cause for concern over the latest development in the party.

Yesterday the MCA central committee suspended the entire 46-member Youth wing's committee following the Aug 3 fracas at the movement's annual general meeting.

"In the interest of the party and for the sake of peace and stability there was no expulsion but only suspension," Ling said.

He was speaking to reporters after paying last respects to the late Perlis MCA chief and state assemblyman for Indera Kayangan Datuk Khor Liang Tee at Taman Muhibbah in Jejawi near here today.

Khor died of colon cancer at the Gleneagles Intan medical centre in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday night thus creating a vacancy in the MCA-held state constituency.

In the light of the impending by-election to fill the vacancy, Dr Ling said he would submit a list of probable nominees to the Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a few days and leave it to him to decide who should stand there.

His immediate task would be to obtain the list from the Kangar MCA division for scrutiny before handing it over to Dr Mahathir, Dr Ling said.

Reacting to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's observation that the MCA should discard factionalism in the party, Dr Ling said the matter should not have arisen.

"The MCA is one party that has one president," he said.

Meanwhile, other MCA leaders who paid their last respects to the late Khor were the Housing and Local Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and the Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung.

-- BERNAMA

AD RYN