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Ong `willing to work under Ling'

Abdul Razak Ahmad

KANGAR, Tues. - Suspended MCA Youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat today offered a possible solution to the problems gripping the MCA in the face of the upcoming Indera Kayangan by-election.

He said he was willing to follow instructions given by party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, if the latter was appointed to head the MCA's by-election committee.

"As a way out of the current problems, I suggest that the party president himself lead our campaign workers.

"I want party unity in the by-election. As an MCA member I will do my best in whatever capacity I am given ... I am willing to be led (by Dr Ling) in the campaign," he said when met by reporters after visiting the Kangar MCA division operations room today.

Ong said his willingness to work in a by-election committee headed by Dr Ling would strengthen the party's campaign machinery.

It was also in anticipation of the Opposition using the MCA's internal problems as a primary campaign issue.

Asked whether his suggestion, if adopted, could lead to better relations between rivals in the party during the campaign period, Ong said it was a start.

"It's still too early for me to predict anything," he said.

Asked when he would meet again with Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Ong said he had made an official request and was willing to meet Dr Mahathir anytime to discuss the MCA's on-going problems and Youth issues in general.

Dr Mahathir, who met with Ong on Dec 13, was quoted as saying that he wanted to meet with the MCA Youth chief again.

Also present during Ong's visit today were Menteri Besar and Perlis BN chairman Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim; Kedah MCA chairman Datuk Beh Heng Seong; the party's Perlis deputy chairman Loh Yoon Foo; Perlis Wanita chief Ooi Ah Lan; Kangar division deputy chief Khor Kaw Teng; Matthias Chen Wen Chieh, who is Political Secretary to the Prime Minister; and Leo Yit Kow, who is Political Secretary to the Minister of Health.