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Perlis MCA conducts 'secret ballot' on candidate

KANGAR, Fri. - The results of a secret ballot conducted by Perlis MCA divisions on potential candidates for the Indera Kayangan by-election were yesterday submitted to party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

State Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said a letter of proposal on the favoured candidate was also submitted to BN chairman and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for consideration.

Shahidan, who is the Menteri Besar and State Umno chief, said this after chairing a State Umno meeting here.

Observers said the candidate selection was being carefully done in the light of the party's internal problems.

A State MCA official, who was present during the voting exercise, said it was conducted at Putra Palace Hotel here several days ago.

He said committee members of the three MCA divisions in the State - Kangar, Arau, and Padang Besar - voted in the secret ballot.

The official said Shahidan presided over the proceedings and did not disclose the results.

It is understood that four persons are vying to be MCA candidate for the seat. They are Perlis Wanita MCA chairman and Arau division chief Oui Ah Lan, Kangar division deputy chief Steven Lee, State MCA secretary Tan Kok Kheng and Kangar division committee member Chn'g Ban San.

Oui, widely seen as being aligned to Dr Ling's Team A, is believed to be the leading potential candidate, while Tan is described as a neutral party in the MCA's internal conflict.

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