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`Ong wants an end to party problems'

PUTRAJAYA, Mon. - MCA Youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat wants an end to the problems in the party, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said he supported Ong's stand on the matter which the Deputy Youth and Sports Minister had made known to him at a meeting last Thursday at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport in Jitra, Kedah.

"That was all he said and I support it," Dr Mahathir said of his meeting with Ong.

Ong, of the party's Team B faction, had been facing strong opposition from the wing's central committee lately.

His meeting with the Prime Minister has been a subject of speculation, with some saying Ong was reprimanded by Dr Mahathir while others said the Youth chief wanted to present his side of the story.

Meanwhile, the opposing factions in MCA yesterday attended Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's Hari Raya open house here in separate groups, continuing a trend that started during Deepavali last month.

Team B leaders, led by deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek, arrived about 1.40pm and left 30 minutes later. The others in the group included vice-presidents Datuk Chua Jui Meng and Datuk Chan Kong Choy and MCA Wanita deputy head Datin Paduka Dr Tan Yee Kew.

As the dissenting faction made their exit, president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik arrived with Team A leaders, who included vice-presidents Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn and central committee member Donald Lim.

During MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu's Deepavali open house last month, the two factions also arrived in separate groups.

Ka Ting said it had always been the party's tradition for its leaders to follow the president.

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