

Ling: 21 days enough to inspect list

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LABIS: The 21-day inspection period of the membership list is enough to show transparency in the upcoming party elections, said MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

"In the past, the inspection period was only five to six days. We are giving 21 days, much more than the 14 days requested by (deputy president) Datuk Lim Ah Lek," Dr Ling said after a Chinese New Year gathering here yesterday.

On Sunday, Dr Ling had pointed out that the party had already bent the rules to accommodate various demands.

He said the display of the membership list, including a separate list of all new members, was the first in the history of the 53-year-old party.

The master list of the 135,000 new members at the party headquarters, Wisma MCA in Kuala Lumpur, was available for inspection since Thursday.

The list for each of the more than 4,000 MCA branches will be displayed at the respective branch offices and can only be inspected by members of the

branches concerned.

Meanwhile, a party leader said the list would be available for viewing during office hours from 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday and from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays.

"The MCA headquarters is closed every Sunday and on the first and third Saturday of the month," he said.

The party headquarters will be closed today and tomorrow and inspection will resume on Monday. Earlier in his speech at the gathering, Dr Ling urged MCA members to give undivided support to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership.

"Dr Mahathir has good leadership qualities and his far-sightedness will ensure the country's prosperity and stability.

"Therefore, it is important that MCA, being an important member of Barisan Nasional, extend our undivided support to the Prime Minister," he said.

Dr Ling also said that Barisan's victory in the Indera Kayangan by-election showed that the voters strongly supported the coalition.