

PM issues gag order on Team A and B

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by R. Manirajan

SHAH ALAM: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has ordered all concerned parties in MCA against making any more statements concerning the crisis in the party.

This include MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek and the prime minister himself, who is the Barisan Nasional chairman.

Just before a press conference after a Charity Golf Tournament here yesterday, Mahathir said: "I want to make a statement, there will be no more statements on MCA that will be made by me, Ling and even Lim."

When asked if this is a blanket freeze for everybody and until when it will be in effect, he said it applies to everyone, adding that he does not know how long the freeze will apply.

When asked if part of the peace plan underlined for Ling and Lim covers no-contest for the president and deputy president's post, Mahathir said: "I have sworn to secrecy and silence."

A few days ago, Mahathir had expressed concern over the intention of Team B to conduct the EGM on April 21 despite objection from the party leadership.

Mahathir had said then that he believed the rift in MCA can be resolved through discussions and that he would call Ling and Lim for a meeting.

Yesterday, Ling met Mahathir at his office in Putrajaya and Ling revealed that the prime minister has come up with a peace plan to resolve the problem.

Ling also said "the plan outlined an agenda for stability and peace and it was a very good meeting. I promised to support the agenda and work hard towards achieving it."

Lim when contacted said that he welcomes the move and everyone should heed PM's advice. Lim has not met Mahathir yet.

"Let this be a cooling-off period while the PM comes up with an amicable solution," he added.

However, he declined to comment when asked on the EGM.