

Team B calls off EGM in spirit of unity

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by Sharon Tan

KUALA LUMPUR: Team B of the MCA warring faction has called off tomorrow's extra-ordinary general meeting (EGM) in the spirit of party unity

Its leader, Datuk Lim Ah Lek, who is also the party deputy president, said the action is in line with the advice given to both factions by Prime Minister and the Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The advice, which is driven by the desire for unity, has also provided the framework for the solution to the present split within the party," Lim told a press conference here yesterday

"It is also based on just and equitable terms, which include calling-off the EGM as well as the party elections from division level onwards."

He said the scheduled divisional annual general meetings (AGM) will proceed minus the elections.

Divisional elections are scheduled for next Saturday and Sunday while nominations are scheduled for this Monday

Lim said his side had shown their commitment to the peace and unity of the party by calling off the EGM.

"As such, all divisions should not proceed with nominations scheduled on April 22. To do otherwise would be to go against the advice of the prime minister for unity," he said.

Asked if he can confirm that the elections have been called off, Lim said: "We are saying that after hearing the advice given by the prime minister. We have agreed to do our part. Therefore, the party elections

should be postponed."

Asked if party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik agreed to call off the elections, he said they can only speak for themselves.

Lim said the priority is to move forward and face the next general election as a team.

He also confirmed that there have been a series of meetings in which Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was given the mandate to handle the matter, and that one of the moderators was Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing.

Asked if this has been a one-sided

agreement, he said he cannot speak on behalf of the party president.

Lim confirmed that they have signed the memorandum of agreement on the peace formula on Thursday but declined to comment when asked if Team A had also signed it.

He also refused to reveal the details of the memorandum.

Asked what have become of the disputed 135,000 names in the new membership list, he said they will look into the matter but reiterated that at this juncture, it is important for them to achieve unity