

# Team A won't sign memo before meeting PM again

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Leaders of MCA Team A confirmed that they did not sign the memorandum on the Prime Minister's agenda for peace and stability and will not do so until they have another meeting

with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

A senior spokesman for Team A said:

"We prefer to wait for Dr Mahathir to return from overseas on Monday for clarification."

The spokesman asserted that Team A leaders were united over this.

"On the one hand, we have to re-

spect the wishes of the Prime Minister while on the other, we also have to consider the wishes of the members, which is to proceed with the divisional elections," said the spokesman who requested anonymity.

Yesterday, Team B leaders announced that they had signed the memorandum.

The memorandum had three

main points which wanted the Team B-proposed extraordinary general meeting to be called off, re-scheduling of divisional elections and the present status quo retained at all party levels.

Team B in signing the memorandum basically heeded the advice of Dr Mahathir who is also Barisan Nasional chairman.

Prior to this, over a period of

more than a year, both Team A, led by party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, and Team B, led by Datuk Lim Ah Lek, repeatedly approached Dr Mahathir and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for help to resolve the conflict in the MCA.

On Thursday night, Abdullah, to-

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gether with mediators Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing and Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew, who were Team A's choice, met both factions and presented them with the memorandum drafted on Dr Mahathir's advice.

The Team A spokesman also denied there was any split over the decision not to sign the memorandum.

MCA steering committee chairman Da-

tuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh, aligned to Team A, remained adamant that the party polls at all levels proceed as scheduled.

Nominations for divisions are scheduled to start at 4pm on Monday while Dr Mahathir is expected to be back about 10am.

Meanwhile, despite the spokesman's claims that Team A leaders were united in not signing the memorandum, other sources revealed that there were differing opinions on the matter within the camp.

It was learnt that one side believed it was best that Team A signed the memorandum to avoid being seen as going against the Prime Minister's advice. However, the other side is as adamant that the divisional elections should proceed.

Observers viewed that Team A, in refusing to sign the memorandum, had backtracked on the earlier agreement when they met the Prime Minister before he left for Morocco on April 15.