

MCA's single slate of candidates

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. Efforts by MCA leaders to ensure a single list of candidates come nomination day on May 10 have so far received positive reaction from members of both factions.

A leader from the Team A faction today said the single list, which meant that there were no contest at the divisional level, would be a good move towards uniting MCA.

He said although there were still many unresolved issues and unanswered questions, most members were receptive to the leaders' call to set aside differences and heed the

Prime Minister's agenda for peace and stability in the MCA.

"However, what worries us is how long these members will remain pacified. In fact, 2005 (the next party elections) is still a long way and many have been working hard to gain support to contest for top positions in their divisions."

He said the only reason why these members had remained silent was purely because the call to unite had come from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself.

"I doubt the no-contest decision would have gone down well with

any of the members had it come from anyone else, even our party president or his deputy," said the leader who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The leader also expressed concern on the part of Team B members as to how long they would remain "quiet" before bringing up the issue of phantom members again.

"The fact that they have agreed to the peace plan indirectly means that they have accepted the membership list which they had earlier claimed was more than 70 per cent

gets positive reaction

tainted," he said, adding that this was very doubtful and it would only be a matter of time before the problem cropped up again.

His doubt was somewhat confirmed by a Team B leader who only said "let's wait and see" when asked about their acceptance to the membership list.

"There is no question that we are sincere in wanting to ensure a united MCA. But that does not mean we have forgotten what we have been fighting for all this while.

"We have no concrete solution

(to the membership list) at this moment as our attention now is to ensure Dr Mahathir's advice is adhered to by all our (Team B) members," he said.

Leaders from both factions also dismissed rumours on the emergence of a Team C, consisting members who were neither aligned to party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik nor his deputy Datuk Lim Ah Lek.

"To my knowledge, MCA members always pride themselves as being very united and there is no doubt that each member, regard-

less of which faction they belongd, wants this to continue.

"The formation of Team A and B came about purely because of disagreements over certain decisions taken by Dr Ling and had nothing to do with the peace and unity within the party," said the Team B leader.

Leaders from both factions said they had no knowledge how rumours of a Team C emerging were sparked off and reiterated that there was no such thing.

"Two factions in the party is enough," said a Team A leader.