

PM's MCA peace plan receives wide support from divisions

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Prime Minister's agenda for peace and stability for the MCA looks set to achieve its objectives. More than 90 per cent of the party's 166 divisions have pledged not to have any contest.

With only five more days to go before nomination closes on May 10, these MCA divisions have also reached an agreement to maintain the status quo in the party leadership.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said only seven divisions had yet to come up with a common list to maintain the status quo.

"I am happy with the situation. We got five days to go, so the situation now is considered very good," he said after opening the Certificate for Early Children Education Institute in Setapak today.

(The CECE Institute, funded by the Huaren Education Fundation,

was established in 1993 to train instructors in early children's education nationwide.)

Apart from May 10 set for nominations, the central committee has fixed May 14 for the divisional Youth and Wanita elections and May 15 for the divisional elections.

Prime Minister and Barisan National chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had proposed a plan which calls for all party posts not to be contested until 2005, and it was agreed to by the MCA central committee.

The peace plan was mooted following a protracted conflict between Team A led by Dr Ling and Team B led by his deputy Datuk Lim Ah Lek.

Dr Ling said the seven divisions were in the midst of negotiations and would work out a solution among themselves.

"We have to talk to these seven divisions to adhere to the peace

plan outlined by the Prime Minister."

Asked what were the problems faced by the divisions, Dr Ling said:

"In one division, for instance, the chairman has died. In some others (divisions), their chairmen wanted to resign voluntarily.

"I am, however, confident they will be able to compromise."

Commenting on the extra 300 delegates to the general assembly as compared with last year's, Dr Ling said the steering committee would work it out and determine who would be the delegates.

He was also asked about the situation regarding most State MCA Youth chairmen who, because of the age limit of 45 years, were unable to seek re-election.

Dr Ling said they would be given other roles. "Some of them are still division chairmen, some become exco members. There are a lot of ways to contribute."