

# Nominations challenging incumbents struck out

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The MCA elections steering committee today struck out all nominations challenging incumbent divisional office-bearers, paving the way for “no contest” in tomorrow’s divisional Youth and Wanita elections.

Saying it was “an extraordinary situation which called for an extraordinary political solution”, committee chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh explained that “it was done in the interest of the party’s stability.”

The decision sent the message to the party’s State and national-level aspirants to re-think their idea of ignoring the central committee’s no-contest advice.

Ting said the decision made at the three-hour meeting was in line with the central committee’s decision on April 23 that the current batch of office-bearers at divisional, State and national levels should be retained.

It was decided vacancies would be filled through negotiation and compromise.

The committee today also postponed the elections of five divisions.

It gave aspirants there a week to come up with a single list of office-bearers.

□ TURN TO PAGE 3, COL 2

## ‘There is strictly no election, no need to prepare ballot papers’

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□ FROM PAGE ONE

The MCA divisions are Pokok Sena (for parent body and Wanita), Rasah (Youth), Gombak (Wanita), Sungai Petani (Wanita) and Bukit Mertajam (parent body, Youth and Wanita).

In the interim, the party’s steering committee has taken over the divisions through their respective State liaison committees.

The divisional Youth and Wanita wings are scheduled to hold their elections tomorrow, and the divisions proper to hold theirs the following day.

When pressed if today’s decision was in accordance with the party constitution, committee chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh refused a direct answer, save that it was a political decision.

“There is no need for the divisions to prepare ballot papers.

There will be strictly no elections.”

On the creation of a further 300 or so central delegate posts following the increase in membership, Ting said about half of them had been filled.

He said that in those divisions where the deputy chairman had taken on the chairman, the divisional number two would be asked to file their nomination for their current post.

When divisional nominations closed at 8pm last Friday, 42 of the 166 divisional chairmen were challenged, Ting (Gopeng) among them.

There were contests against 15 of the 149 Wanita division heads and about 30 of the 156 Youth division chairmen.

The no-contest advice was part of the peace plan mediated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad following a prolonged split in the MCA.