

# Youth poll ruckus

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## Row over choice of leader cuts short Selangor assembly

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Selangor MCA Youth annual general assembly ended abruptly yesterday when delegates from opposing factions disagreed on the office-bearers for a new three-year term.

The delegates shouted at one another at Wisma MCA's Dewan San Choon when they could not agree on the leader to replace Datuk Ch'ng Toh Eng, who cannot seek re-election as he is over the age limit of 45.

Two hours after the meeting started at 9am, it was adjourned and those present agreed to leave the matter to the special committee headed by party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

During the short-lived assembly, one group wanted committee member Wong Koon Mun to be the new chief. This was opposed by another group, which insisted that deputy chief Datuk Liew Yuen Kong succeed Ch'ng.

It was widely envisaged that there would be no contest for posts in accordance with the formula proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and accepted by the MCA leadership to ensure stability and end the 14-month power tussle.

Almost all incumbents elsewhere did not face challengers and vacancies were filled through negotiations. The sudden change of events will be yet another issue to be decided by the party leadership immediately so that the MCA general assembly on June 29-30 can go on as scheduled.

There were also interruptions at the Perak and Johor youth assemblies yesterday.

All divisions are expected to "elect" their office-bearers, including delegates, and submit the list to the party headquarters by

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## Disruption, too, at Perak MCA Youth assembly

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today to be eligible to attend the general assembly.

Meanwhile, MCA president Ling said the party would leave the matter to the election steering committee, headed by secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh. "We will leave it to the steering committee ... we have decided to maintain the status quo, there is nothing more to add," he said.

Bernama reports that in **IPOH**, the Perak MCA Youth Assembly was interrupted for about 15 minutes when a group of 50 people marched into the hall with banners criticising the new line-up.

The group, claiming to be aligned to Team B (led by party deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek), entered the compound of the Tow Boo Keong Hall as state youth chief Datuk Ho Cheng Wang started his speech.

They left the hall at about 10.30am and held a press conference at a hotel on Jalan Gopeng. They announced that their candidate for the state youth chief's post is

Ipoh Timur youth organising secretary Low Kim Piau.

Claiming that the group represents 50% of the grassroots, Low said they were not consulted when the new list was prepared.

He said this is undemocratic as there are no representatives from Team B in the new committee.

"We will bring up the matter with Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and BN Youth chief Datuk Hishamuddin Hussein".

In **PONTIAN**, arguments over the committee members' list lasted over three hours.

A heated debate began as soon as incumbent Johor youth head Hoo Seong Chang finished addressing about 300 delegates. About 20 delegates stood up to protest the list.

Johor Baru youth chief Wee Ka Siong said the protesters were not from the minority group.

He said delegates from the Segamat, Gelang Patah, Pagoh, Kluang, Bakri, Muar, Kota Tinggi and Tenggara divisions also disagree with the new line-up.