

MCA Youth AGM may have to be postponed

STAR - 7 JUN 2002

By FOONG PEK YEE

KUALA LUMPUR: The MCA Youth national annual general assembly scheduled for June 28 may be postponed if all the state Youth line-ups for 2002/2005 are not settled by then.

Youth secretary-general Yew Teong Look has attributed this problem to certain leaders who were "irrational, unreasonable and insincere" in their negotiations to agree on the lists.

"There are some (MCA leaders) who just do not want to agree on anything despite several rounds of talks on the line-ups," he said, adding that such a bad attitude was a hindrance in the negotiations.

The MCA peace plan calls for a status quo for all incumbent leaders from division upwards while vacancies and new posts be filled through negotiations. This is based on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's peace agenda announced in April to end the party's 14-month

power tussle.

For the Youth movement, there were incumbents who had to step down because they had passed the 45-year-old age limit.

Yew said the Youth in eight states had held their no-contest elections and AGMs on June 2 while those in Federal Territory, Perlis, Penang, Negri Sembilan and Malacca had yet to do so.

Many of the state Youth had yet to settle their various differences, he said, appealing to those involved to be rational, reasonable and sincere so that whatever outstanding differences could be settled without any further delay.

"The image and morale of the MCA Youth will continue to suffer if the problems are dragged on further," he said here yesterday when asked to comment on talk that the June 28 AGM might be postponed.

MCA Youth vice chairman Loh Seng Kok said the notice of the meeting was issued yesterday and all leaders should

work towards having the AGM instead of indulging in talk of a postponement.

"Those who are sincere in implementing the party's peace plan should reflect it (their sincerity) in their actions," he said.

Loh said there were certain selfish quarters who were out to create the impression that the party leadership was no longer in control, adding that one such action was to purposely create problems at the Youth level to derail the AGM.

In another development MCA election steering committee chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh said the MCA national annual general assembly would be held at Wisma MCA here on June 29.

He said Dr Mahathir, who is also the Barisan Nasional chairman, would open the one-day AGM.

He urged delegates to submit their proposed resolutions for debate by June 24, adding that a vetting committee had been set up to streamline topics for debate.