

# Ling dispels contest rumour

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By MUGUNTAN VANAR  
and FOONG PEK YEE

KOTA KINABALU: The no-contest ruling under MCA's peace plan prevails and there is no truth that there will be a contest for the party's Youth central committee posts at its June 28 elections.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik yesterday dismissed talk of such a contest as rumours.

He said Youth wings at the state levels were still facing some problems but the majority in the party - Wanita, Youth and parent body - at all levels had accepted the peace plan.

The plan, based on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's agenda in April to end the party's 14-month power tussle, calls for status quo for all incumbents from division onwards while any vacancy be filled through negotiations and consensus.

Dr Ling, who heads a nine-man special panel to implement the peace plan, stressed that any issues hindering the implementation could be resolved.

"We (MCA) are very happy and proud of our success in the implementation of the peace plan so far," he told reporters after opening the Sabah MCA convention here

yesterday.

Also present at the opening were Sabah MCA chairman Datuk Edward Khoo, deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek, secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh and vice-presidents Datuk Chua Jui Meng and Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting.

The convention, attended by 500 grassroots leaders and members, passed 16 resolutions including supporting the continued leadership of Dr Ling as party president.

In Kuala Lumpur, the three-man panel, which took charge of the MCA Youth central committee since Dec 20 last year, had a meeting with eight Youth representatives over proposals on candidates for the no-contest elections at Wisma MCA yesterday.

A source said there were at least five vacancies at the Youth central committee that had to be filled namely secretary-general, auditor-general and three central committee posts.

The group which met yesterday will be negotiating on the Youth central line-up so that they could come up with a mutually agreed list before nomination on June 24.

Under the no-contest elections, a list of candidates would be put up during nomination and the entire list would be returned unopposed.