

# ***Make peace not war, says Ling***

STAR

By FOONG PEK YEE

14-month power tussle  
between two factions - Team  
A led by Dr Ling and Team B  
headed by Lim.

PUTRAJAYA: There is no necessity to debate in the media why MCA deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek did not retire from politics despite expressing his intention to do so more than 10 years ago.

Saying that his responsibility was to make peace and not war, party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik declared that his priority was to stabilise the party since 99.9% of members had accepted the peace plan which provided status quo for all incumbents at the division, state and national levels in the party.

The peace plan was based on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's agenda in April to end the MCA's

14-month power tussle between two factions - Team A led by Dr Ling and Team B headed by Lim.

"As a party elder, my responsibility is to make peace, not war, for the good of the party, community and nation.

"There is no need to take the issue to the media. If he (Lim) wants to talk, he can talk to me or phone me," Dr Ling said here when asked to comment on Lim's challenge to hold a joint press conference to explain why his deputy had not given up his party post.

Lim, 60, dubbed the "reluctant politician" for nearly three decades, was Pahang state executive councillor between 1974 and 1989 before becoming Human Resources

Minister, a post he held until 1999.

Lim told an English daily on Tuesday that he had issued the challenge to Dr Ling at the MCA presidential council meeting on Monday, which the president turned down.

Several leaders had, on Sunday, questioned Lim's desire to step down made a long time ago after he had said he would step down if asked to do so, during a press conference after opening the 39th MCA Youth general assembly on Saturday.

Lim had also challenged Dr Ling to state his date of retirement and name his successor, saying all the elected central committee members were qualified to become party president.