

Lim wants to be re-appointed to disciplinary panel

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By FOONG PEK YEE

KUALA LUMPUR: With talk that he will be dropped from the MCA's disciplinary committee when its central committee meets tomorrow, deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek has indicated that he wants to be re-appointed as chairman of the panel.

"I would like to remind the president (Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik) that the peace plan means status quo and any vacancy must be filled by consensus," he said here yesterday.

The peace plan was based on an agenda by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in May to end the party's 14-month-long leadership tussle between Team A (led by Dr Ling) and Team B (led by Lim).

The plan provided a status quo for all incumbents at the division, state and central level under a no-contest ruling.

Asked whether appointed posts were included in the peace plan, Lim said: "When we discussed it with the Prime Minister, he said winners don't take all and losers don't lose all."

According to some party officials, however, the peace plan did not cover appointed posts.

"It depends on whether the president is going to make any changes (on the appointed posts) .

"I want to remind the president there is a peace plan," Lim told reporters when asked whether he would raise it at tomorrow's central committee meeting.

Earlier, Lim chaired a two-hour disciplinary committee meeting attended by two other members - vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng and Youth chairman Datuk

Ong Tee Keat.

Two more members - vice-president Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn and Wanita chairman Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen - were absent.

There has been speculation that the disciplinary committee would be revamped to allow a more neutral composition and it was said that some veterans may be appointed following the power tussle which had cast doubts on the panel's neutrality - Lim, Chua and Ong are from Team B while Dr Fong and Dr Ng are aligned to Team A.

The MCA constitution empowers the president to decide on the party's appointed posts and the appointments are usually announced at the first central committee meeting after the party elections.

Lim said the disciplinary committee recorded statements from 11 witnesses, including the defendant in the slapping incident at the Wanita MCA annual general meeting on June 28.

Lo Nyet Yin, who is Tenom Wanita MCA branch chairman, had admitted slapping Sabah Wanita MCA chairman Agnes Shim that day.

Lim said Shim had informed him that she could not attend the hearing because she was not well and her doctor had advised her to rest.

According to Lim, there were also many letters requesting the disciplinary committee to investigate the MCA Youth fracas on Aug 3 last year which included a bomb hoax, adding that yesterday's meeting agreed unanimously to conduct investigations.

He said there were also many requests to investigate the thousands of phantom members in the Party.