

Six new state MCA chiefs to be appointed

By FOONG PEK YEE

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KUALA LUMPUR : Six state MCA liaison committee chairmen are among new appointments for the 2002/2005 line-up to be announced by the party president today.

Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik will make the announcement after chairing the party's first central committee meeting after its July 27 elections.

The new state chiefs are Datuk Chor Chee Heung (Perlis), Wong Kam Hoong (Penang), Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting (Selangor), Datuk Hon Choon Kim (Negri Sembilan), Datuk Poh Ah Thiam (Malacca) and Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek (Johor).

Wong replaces Datuk Dr Sak Cheng Lum while Hon and Poh replace Datuk Wong See Wah and Datuk Wira Gan Boon Leong respectively.

Chor replaces Datuk Khor Liang Tee who died last year.

Dr Ling, who heads Johor and Selangor, is said to be handing over the helm to Dr Chua and Ong respectively, said party sources.

The appointment of state chairmen, appointed posts in the central committee and bureau chairmen is the prerogative of the president under the MCA constitution.

The rest of the state chiefs to be re-appointed are Datuk Beh Heng Seong (Kedah), Datuk Ong Ka Chuan (Perak), Datuk Tan Chai Ho (Federal Territory), Datuk Chan Kong Choy (Pahang), Datuk Lau Yin Pin (Terengganu), Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn (Kelantan) and Datuk Edward Khoo (Sabah).

Also set to be re-appointed are secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh, treasurer-general Tan Sri William Chek, national organising secretary Datuk Ong Ka Chuan and majority of the six appointed central committee members - Datin Paduka Dr Tan Yee Kew, Datuk Koay Kar Huah, Datuk Leong Tang Chong, Senator Yew Teong Look, Lim Bee Kau and Chew Mei Fun.

In Putrajaya yesterday, Dr Ling confirmed there would be new faces in

today's appointments.

On indications that deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek wanted to be re-appointed as the party's disciplinary committee chairman, Dr Ling said it was up to the central committee which was empowered to do so under the party constitution.

On Tuesday, Lim had reminded the party president that "the peace plan means status quo", referring to the plan 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 status quo for all incumbents at the division, state and central level under a no-contest ruling.

Dr Ling said: "What is important is the spirit of the peace plan - to bring stability and peace."

He said appointments had to be based on merit and contributions while there were also reasons "why one should not be considered."