

MCA state chiefs to decide on line-ups soon

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PUTRAJAYA: The 13 MCA state liaison committee chairmen are expected to come up with their respective line-ups soon and they are empowered to decide on the appointments, party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said.

He said discussions were under way on the appointments and some leaders also wanted to discuss their candidates with him.

"Those appointed should be dynamic and forward looking because we do not want the party to be static and stagnant for three years," he told reporters at his office before a post-Cabinet meeting yesterday.

Last Thursday, Dr Ling announced the appointment of 13 state chairmen - seven were reappointed and six new faces at the party's first central committee meeting for 2002/2005 following its triennial elections and annual general assembly on July 27.

There was no contest in the elections under a peace plan

by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to end the party's 14-month leadership tussle.

The plan applies to the division, state and central level, providing status quo for elected incumbents for 1999/2002.

Last Thursday's central committee meeting also saw the replacement of the disciplinary committee, headed by Lim, by five party veterans headed by former secretary-general Datuk Kam Woon Wah.

Lim and his supporters had protested against his removal, saying it was against the Prime Minister's peace plan.

On Tuesday, Dr Mahathir said Lim was not suitable candidate to hold the post of the party's disciplinary committee chairman because he was directly involved in party problems.

Lim was quoted in a Chinese daily as saying yesterday that if those involved in party disputes could not be appointed as disciplinary committee

chairman, then all party members and leaders were not qualified to hold the post.

Yesterday, Dr Ling said the central committee's stand was the same as that of the Prime Minister's.

He said the new disciplinary committee was expected to come up with a set of guidelines on discipline very soon.

On the termination of 11 of the party's 17 national bureaus last Thursday, Dr Ling said he needed some time to reassess their performance and their relevance.

He said he would also consider setting up new bureaus to cater to new needs.

The six bureau chairmen who were reappointed were Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh (Education), Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting (Chinese Guilds and Associations Consultative), Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn (Economics), Ho Lim Teck (Political Training Courses Coordination) Datuk Leong Tang Chong (Legal) and Datuk Fu Ah Kiow (Religious Affairs).