

Proposed code of conduct well received

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By FOONG PEK YEE

KUALA LUMPUR: The proposed code of conduct for MCA members has received positive response from party leaders in the run-up to its tabling at the presidential council meeting for approval tomorrow.

The consensus is that a list of "do's and don'ts", applicable to all members and leaders, would act as a deterrent besides preventing differing interpretations on complaints of indiscipline.

The newly formed disciplinary committee comprising five party veterans and headed by former secretary-general Datuk Kam Woon Wah announced the proposed code, believed to be the first of its kind for the 53-year-old party, on Thursday.

MCA secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh said the clear listing of "do's and don'ts" would be a practical guide for members when upholding party discipline.

"The code will also help prevent various interpretations on complaints of indiscipline, unnecessary arguments and confusion," he added.

Datuk Dr Sak Cheng Lum said the code was timely in helping to restore the "very much needed discipline" and stability in the party.

"We cannot deny that the party has been immersed in a lot of controversy since the crisis last year," said Dr Sak who is an MCA central committee member.

Johor MCA chief Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek said the spate of indiscipline, aggravated by public misconduct of certain party leaders had warranted the introduction of the code.

"It will help hasten the healing process which the party is undergoing following the peace plan by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to end the 14-month crisis in April," he said.

Federal Territory MCA chief Datuk Tan Chai Ho said the code would be a good guide for members, especially when reacting to incidents.

Selangor MCA secretary Datuk Ch'ng Toh Eng said the code must also be easy to understand and "compassionate", like listing out the types of offences and punishment depending on the severity of cases and whether

they were first-time offenders or repeated ones.

"Effective and impartial implementation will also send a clear signal to the ground," Ch'ng added.

MCA Youth central committee member Fam Lee Ee said the code should be accepted with an "open mind".

"Certain things which are good for the party should be spelt out clearly," said Fam, a lawyer.

Wanita MCA national organising secretary Chew Mei Fun said leaders and members should respect the efforts and attempts by the disciplinary committee who had the mandate from the majority in the central committee to help restore discipline in the party.

A local daily on Saturday quoted deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek as saying that there was no point in having a code of conduct for members if top leaders did not abide by existing party regulations and standard practices.

Lim, however, refused to name the leaders he was referring to, according to the newspaper.