

08 JUN 2002
MCA-walk-out
500 SELANGOR MCA DELEGATES STAGE WALK-OUT

SEPANG, June 8 (Bernama) -- Some 500 of the 2,500 Selangor MCA delegates staged a walk-out during their state convention in protest against the decision by the convention speaker to shorten the debate session.

The incident took place after six out of the 17 representatives took the floor to debate on the motion of thanks for the state chairman's address.

The speaker of the convention, Khoo Ooi Sing cut short the debate session due to time constraint but some members insisted that it be continued.

"We want to continue the debate," said a delegate who stood up and raised his hand.

But Khoo said time was running out and the debate session had to be shortened to make way for the winding-up speeches.

"There's short of time, it's really enough," he said to to the uproar from the floor.

Later, about 500 delegates stood up and left the conference hall.

Speaking to the reporters later, some of them questioned the decision to shorten the debate session when all 17 the divisional representatives were supposed to take part.

"How can he stop us from speaking? We have given in advance and have been listed to participate," said a visibly angry delegate from Kuala Langat.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, who is also Selangor MCA chairman, said that during the "cooling down period in MCA" various situations existed.

"However, the majority are still there even when these people have walked out," he said when asked to comment on the incident.

Dr Ling also said that the most important thing was to ensure the peace plan, outlined by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, be fully implemented in the party.

-- BERNAMA
AT AFY ABG