

24/07/2002

2,805 delegates to attend MCA assembly

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - A total of 2,805 delegates are expected to attend the 49th MCA general assembly this Saturday to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said leaders of Barisan Nasional component parties and party veterans would also attend the assembly.

Dr Ling, speaking after chairing a two-hour presidential council meeting at the party headquarters today, said the assembly will debate on the presidential address and resolutions which cover economics, politics and education.

The general assembly, originally scheduled to be held on June 29, was postponed as Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, had a prior engagement.

The assembly will also hold its triennial elections but all central committee members were returned unopposed following the implementation of the MCA peace plan brokered by Dr Mahathir.

On the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English in national-type Chinese schools, Dr Ling said the council today discussed several ways to promote the use of English.

"But as for the implementation of English in vernacular schools, we have to study the matter in greater detail," he said.

On other options, Dr Ling said: "It is not for public discussions yet."

On reports that Huaren Management Sdn Bhd had disposed of 24 per cent shares in Nanyang Press Holdings Bhd last week, Dr Ling said he had no knowledge of the identity of the several buyers.

Dr Ling is a trustee of Huaren Holdings Sdn Bhd which owns 100 per cent equity in Huaren Management.

He said buyers who purchase less than five per cent of the equity need not disclose their identity to the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

With the disposal, Dr Ling said Huaren Management now owed the bank about RM150 million, from RM300 million previously and Huaren Management could service its interests more comfortably.