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MCA-Phantom

TEAM B LEADERS ALLEGE MEMBERSHIP LIST CONTAINS PHANTOM MEMBERS

IPOH, Feb 13 (Bernama) -- Perak MCA leaders aligned to Team B led by party deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek today questioned the validity of more than 33,000 new members in the state and alleged there were many phantom members.

Teja Assemblyman Dr Ho Wai Cheong, who acted as the group's spokesman, said the membership list released on Sunday by party headquarters contained "suspicious members" and it was not a clean list.

"It is unbelievable there are 33,636 new members in Perak out of 135,000 nationwide. We are quite sure some people, including college students, do not even know they have been registered as MCA members," he told a press conference here today.

Present were Kuala Dipang assemblyman Dr Chong Fah, Chan Kam (Pasir Pinji), Datuk Lee Chee Leong (Malim Nawar) and former Menglembu assemblyman Liew Chong Sang.

Ah Lek, the former Human Resources Minister, is expected to challenge party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik for the president's post at the party election on June 29.

Perampalam said the 40 per cent discount would be available be until Friday.

Dr Ho said they found discrepancies in the list put up for inspection for 21 days and were verifying the names with branches and divisions in the state.

He said the new members might have been approved without the knowledge of branch chairmen and some members could have been transferred to other states.

He claimed there was selective approval of membership in Perak, saying that new members in pro-Dr Ling branches were easily approved even though some submitted their applications only in December.

"Many branches have hundreds or even a thousand members added to their list. On the other hand, membership in branches not aligned to them are not approved until today although some applied as early as in 2000," he said.

Dr Ho said 3,976 membership applications for Batu Gajah, Ipoh Timur, Gopeng and Kampar divisions were rejected without any reasons, adding that National Organising Secretary Datuk Ong Ka Chuan, who is also Perak MCA chief, had a role in it.

New branches were also added in Ipoh Timur, Gopeng and Kampar divisions.

He said Team B members were compiling a list of "questionable members" to be submitted to the party election steering committee, central committee and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"It's a number game...the more members in a branch, there'll be more delegates to the divisional election and this will have a bearing on the election at national-level," he said.

Dr Ho said it would not be a fair election as the membership list had been manipulated to suit certain leaders.

He said Perak was one of the crucial states for the coming election as it would be sending 739 delegates, the third biggest after Selangor and Johor, to the General Assembly.

-- BERNAMA

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