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Ling-Fair

APPOINTMENT OF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS FAIR, SAYS DR LING

PUTRAJAYA, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today defended the appointment of five party veterans to the party's disciplinary committee headed by Datuk Kam Woon Wah, saying the appointments were fair and conformed to criteria.

He said the committee should consist of people who were neutral and not aligned to any factions in the party.

Dr Ling said he did not consider the appointments as going against the peace plan outlined by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the new team was named in the interests of the party without any personal agenda.

"The appointments are fair. The disciplinary board needs people who are neutral and impartial. For that, we need a new set of committee members replacing the previous ones," he said.

He said vice-president Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn and wanita chief Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen, who were members in the previous committee headed by party deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek, would be absorbed into new bureaus which required their leadership, he told reporters after meeting the Yoke Hwa Chinese Secondary School harmonica group at his office.

Dr Ling said he was confident the new team led by Kam, a former vice-president and secretary-general, would discharge its duties responsibly as they had vast experience on party matters.

"The majority of party members have accepted and were happy over the appointments and we believe everything will go on smoothly," he said.

He also said a set of guidelines should be given to Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties on the do's and don'ts to keep problems at bay.

The guidelines, among others, should state the actions to be taken if there was a misunderstanding among BN components like holding transparent discussions to resolve the problem and not use the media to air their grievances.

"The guidelines are important as internal problems in the BN should not be revealed to the outside world. This will only worsen the situation," he said.

He, however, said the party's disciplinary committee did not require such guidelines as the new team would use their vast experience on MCA matters in making their decisions.

"Given their wide experience, I believe they should know what needs to be done and the form of action to be taken," he said.

Earlier, he announced RM1,000 reward to each of the seven members of the Yoke Hwa school harmonica group for enhancing the country's image at the 4th Asia-Pacific Harmonica Festival in Japan last month.

In the competition participated by seven countries, Malaysia bagged a gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

Three of the group members -- Ho Chee Kin, Ng Min Chee and Koh Keng Hong -- were world champions in the same competition held in England two years ago.

-- BERNAMA

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