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Convince me, says Yeow

Chow Kum Hor

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - MCA central committee member Datuk Dr Yeow Chai Thiam, speculated to have recently switched political allegiance in the MCA crisis, said he would support the "group which wants to set things right."

Saying that he was neither in Team A nor Team B, he, however, admitted that he was together with several key Team B leaders in the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya last Monday.

Five Team B leaders met Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad then while Dr Yeow and two others waited outside the Prime Minister's office.

Dr Yeow, who is also Lukut Assemblyman, was one of the 32 Team A central committee members, as reflected in the bloc voting pattern in the party's highest decision-making body.

"If I am now seen to be with a particular faction, it is because I want to see if they can convince me that they want to set things right," he said when contacted.

Asked if he would switch camps if the Team B succeeded in "convincing" him to join them, Dr Yeow said if there was more evidence of wrongdoings, he would support any group that wanted to correct any irregularities.

Dr Yeow and his supporters also recently attended several functions organised by Team B, including a dinner in Bagan Datuk, Perak last night, where the faction's leaders Datuk Lim Ah Lek and Datuk Chua Jui Meng were also present.

When pointed out that his presence in Putrajaya on Monday and in several Team B functions showed that he had "defected", Dr Yeow said as a politician, he needed to move around and be vigilant of the developments around him.

He added that he would continue attending functions if there were invitations by either camps.

On what he meant by "setting things right", Dr Yeow said one important element in the run-up to the triennial party election was that the membership list must be cleaned up.

He refused to comment if there were any irregularities in the membership list in the Rasah division as he wanted to let the MCA election steering committee do its job.

It was learnt the crossover talks surfaced after Dr Yeow allegedly discovered several discrepancies in the MCA membership list comprising more than 135,000 new members nationwide.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that four key team A leaders met with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office in Putrajaya this afternoon.

The delegation was led by MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, followed by vice-presidents Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Fong Chan Onn and Wanita MCA chief Datuk Ng Yen Yen.

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