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Dr Ling told to abide by peace plan

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - With less than 48 hours to go before the list of appointed MCA office-bearers is announced, deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek today reminded president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik to abide by the party peace plan.

Under the peace plan, Lim said all incumbents, including those appointed by the president, should be retained. "I want to remind the president about the peace plan. The prerogative is his, but please honour the peace plan," he said after a disciplinary committee meeting at the party headquarters here.

Lim was asked if he would be retained as the disciplinary committee chairman, a post traditionally held by the deputy president.

There have been speculations that Lim, who headed the dissenting Team B faction during the party crisis, would be dropped.

Dr Ling is expected to announce the list of appointees after chairing the first central committee meeting for the 2002-2005 posts on Thursday. These included eight appointed central committee members, the respective State party chairmen and the various bureau heads, including the disciplinary board head.

Lim, a former Human Resources Minister, said at the June 29 general assembly that secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh had stated that all appointed posts would be retained.

He said based on his discussions with the Prime Minister when drawing up the peace accord, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that "winners do not take all and losers do not lose all".

Today's disciplinary committee also unanimously agreed to investigate several cases of party indiscipline, including last year's Aug 3 Youth AGM fracas and allegations of phantom members.

Of the five committee members, Lim, vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng and Youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat were present. Wanita head Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen and vice-president Datuk Fong Chan Onn - both aligned to Team A - were absent.

"We have received a lot of complaints about the fracas, which has affected the party's image ...We need to get to the bottom of this."

They also interviewed 11 witnesses of a case where Kampung Bahagia branch Wanita chairman, Lo Nyet Yin, slapped Sabah Wanita head Agnes Shim on June 28.

All witnesses were brought by the defendant, while Shim, who was sick, did not attend. Hearing for the case continues.

Lim also described as "unprecedented and inappropriate" a letter from the Wanita executive council to the disciplinary committee demanding that Lo be sacked for the incident.

"Under the party constitution, it is the role of the disciplinary committee to conduct inquiry."