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Ah Lek-Youth

LIFT SUSPENSION ON MCA YOUTH, RESTORE ITS POWERS, SAYS AH LEK

KUALA LUMPUR, June 28 (Bernama) -- MCA deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek today asked the party's Central Committee (CC) to lift the suspension on MCA Youth and restore the powers of the movement's leaders.

He said the suspension must be withdrawn before the party's General Assembly on July 27 to enable the wing to function as usual and carry out programmes for the Chinese community.

He said lifting of the suspension was important and necessary, especially for the movement to organise activities during the upcoming Anak Bukit state and Pendang parliamentary by-elections in Kedah.

"I leave it to the CC. I hope the CC would lift the suspension before July 27," he told reporters after opening the MCA Youth Assembly at Wisma MCA here.

A total of 1,692 delegates attended the meeting, accounting for only 64.42 per cent of the total number of delegates eligible to attend the one-day assembly.

The MCA Youth CC, including the Youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat, was suspended by the MCA CC, the party's highest decision-making body, on Dec 20 following the fracas in August last year.

The MCA CC then named a three-man special committee led by the party's former national organising secretary Wang Choon Wing to supervise the wing.

The other two members of the committee are CC members Datuk Hon Choon Kim and Datuk Poh Ah Tiam.

Lim said while the suspension was imposed to "cool off" the chaotic situation in the movement, it has since outlived its intended purpose.

"They (MCA Youth wing) are elected leaders and they want to move forward. We, as MCA leaders, should help them in doing this by lifting the suspension," he said.

He said the MCA CC should dissolve the special committee and return the powers to the new Youth CC so that the MCA peace plan put forth by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad can be accomplished.

Lim said he would speak to MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik on the matter before the next CC meeting.

Meanwhile, party vice-president Datuk Chan Kong Choy told reporters after the assembly opening that he would move a resolution at the next CC meeting to withdraw the suspension on the youth wing.

"The youth should have their powers back and we want this to be done as soon as possible," he said, echoing Lim's wishes.

Another vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng said the youth had played a vital role in the party's 53-year history and that it was time for the suspension to be withdrawn after it had been placed under the special committee for nearly a year.

"I will support for their powers to be given back, that's important," said Chua, who is Health Minister.

Another vice-president, Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, when asked for comments on the issue, said the three man-committee had actually planned to return the powers to the Youth CC.

"They don't plan to let the suspension stay on for too long, In fact, they would like to hand over the powers as soon as possible as the Youth meeting this time had proceeded smoothly," he said.

-- BERNAMA
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