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Ling-MCA
LIST OF NEW MCA MEMBERS FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY

GENTING HIGHLANDS, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- In an unprecedented move, MCA intends to display the list of its 138,000 new members, who joined the party last year, alongside the list of existing members this month.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said never in the history of the party had it openly displayed its new members' list, during the party election year, and that it was done this time around because MCA wanted its election to be as transparent as possible.

"I would propose at the next Central Committee meeting on Feb 9 that the list be displayed for all to see, formerly we rejected this when a Central Committee (CC) member brought it up at the meeting because the MCA headquarters staff could not key in all the names but they have worked hard and made it," he told reporters this after opening a MCA motivational seminar here.

He said normally the party only put up the list of its members for five days before the party elections, held every three years.

The second largest Barisan Nasional component party would hold its polls late June this year.

"But this year the list would be up for 21-days and the 138,000 new members would be displayed separately from the existing members' list," he added.

He said he would propose that the new members' list be put up at the upcoming MCA CC meeting and the proposal was expected to be given the green-light by party leaders.

He said the move was to show democracy at work in the party and to avoid more internal bickering in the MCA, which was now at a serious level.

"We want all parties to accept the results of the June party elections...the winner (at the election) would lead and the losers should cooperate to strengthen the party," he said.

He said MCA wanted to avoid the "Nanyang Emergency General Assembly" where after voting and results announced, there were grouses of unfair election practices.

Mid-last year, the party had an EGM to endorse the purchase of two Chinese dailies, one of them being Nanyang Siang Pau, by the party. It had to use secret ballots to get endorsement for the purchase from over nearly 2,000 delegates.

The ballot was needed as some party leaders had opposed the acquisition and this was the start of the party woes. The delegates endorsed the purchase but not without allegation of discrepancies in the process.

"We are bending backwards to ensure a more clean and transparent democratic process, we will respect whatever result of this year's elections," Dr Ling said.

He said the list would go on display at the party's respective branches from Feb 9 to March 2.

MCA had been going through a torrid time over the past year due to squabbles by leaders aligned to Dr Ling and those close to his deputy Datuk Lim Ah Lek. Ling was all for the Nanyang purchase while Lim was against the move.

Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last week said that he was still trying to get the two factions to settle the problem amicably.

However, party analyst expect the MCA elections this year to be a fiery

affair where all top party positions was likely to face stiff challenge.

-- BERNAMA

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