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MCA AGM postponed to July 27

Chow Kum Hor

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The MCA general assembly fixed for June 29 has been postponed to July 27 to accommodate Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's schedule.

The Youth and Wanita general assemblies will proceed as planned on June 28 while the national-level nominations, scheduled for June 24, will also go on.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, who announced the new date today, said Dr Mahathir, who was supposed to open the meeting, would be overseas on June 29.

The Prime Minister has always been the guest-of-honour during the opening of the MCA general assembly.

"The central committee, which will meet on June 24, will ratify the new date of the AGM," Dr Ling said after chairing the party's "no-contest" committee meeting at the MCA headquarters.

He said today's meeting also unanimously appointed vice-presidents Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Chan Kong Choy to resolve the stalemate in coming up with a single list of Youth office-bearers at the division, state and national levels.

Dr Ling also said more negotiations would be needed to reach a consensus among the contending parties at state and division levels.

"The committee today also asked all members to refrain from making any more negative Press statements on the several cases of deadlock," Dr Ling said.

If members persisted in speaking to the Press, Dr Ling said disciplinary committee chairman and deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek had been directed to call up these members and advise them against doing so.

Asked if MCA would seek outside parties to resolve the stalemate if negotiations break down, Dr Ling refused to comment.

Yesterday, MCA Youth head Datuk Ong Tee Keat suggested that businessman Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing, who helped in the drafting of the Prime Minister's peace plan, be roped in again to resolve the deadlock, especially in the Youth movement.

On when the suspended Youth central committee would have its power returned to the body, Dr Ling said:

"Let's wait and see. We take things one step at a time."

Dr Ling also refused to speculate when asked if the Youth central committee would remain suspended if the movement failed to come up with a single list of office-bearers.

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