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MCA leaders are at it again

Chow Kum Hor

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Barely 48 hours after MCA's `truce' for the Indera Kayangan by-election ended, party leaders today continued their public bickering as the MCA triennial elections draw near.

Two MCA Team A Youth State chairmen hit out at certain party leaders for raising internal problems during the by-election campaign.

Some leaders were also accused of sabotaging the party's efforts in Indera Kayangan.

Terengganu MCA Youth head Toh Chin Yaw said a party leader had predicted that Barisan Nasional would lose in the by-election.

"This gives the impression that he wants to sabotage the BN and his own party," said Toh in a statement.

He did not name the leader concerned.

He said while party leaders were busy campaigning in Indera Kayangan, certain leaders had gone on their own campaign trail in Selangor, Kota Tinggi and Malacca to criticise the MCA leadership.

These people, Toh said, showed up in Indera Kayangan but their presence there was only for `window dressing'.

He criticised this `hypocritical action', adding that the majority of party members wanted peace and stability as espoused by MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

Sabah MCA Youth head Chew Kok Woh, also of Team A, expressed regret that during the Indera Kayangan campaigning period, several Selangor MCA Youth leaders had continued with its signature campaign to undermine the party leadership.

"The meetings held in Kota Tinggi and Malacca to criticise the present leadership were totally appalling.

"It was an attempt to sabotage the BN and MCA. The advice for unity by Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) and party president was not heeded," Chew said in a statement.

He added it was the maturity and positive attitude of the members that had negated such `bad faith and evil attempt'.

Meanwhile, MCA Youth head Datuk Ong Tee Keat said those accusing party members of sabotage should show proof.

"My actions speak for themselves. I was there for almost the entire duration of the campaigning period," said Team B's Ong.

He added there was no need for him to answer all the accusations hurled by his opponents.

MCA Youth deputy secretary-general Liow Tiong Lai said accusing party leaders of sabotaging the campaign was uncalled for.

"These people talk about unity but they do not practise what they preach," Liow, the Bentong MP from Team B, said.

He added it was normal for party leaders to hold briefing sessions for members.

Asked why such briefings were held in the midst of the by-election campaign, Liow said many of these sessions had been planned earlier.

He added several briefings, including in Bentong, had been cancelled due to the Indera Kayangan by-election.

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