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MCA presidential council to decide backbenchers' fate next week

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today the party's presidential council would meet next week to decide the fate of Penang MCA backbenchers Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi).

Asked about the possibility of expulsion, Dr Ling said: "Let us not speculate. Wait until the PC meets and then we will tell you what action we have decided to take."

He had earlier joined Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and other BN component party leaders to break fast at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Lim and Tan breached party discipline when they abstained instead of rejecting a motion tabled by the Opposition to defer the proposed construction of the RM1.02 billion Penang Outer Ring Road.

They claimed ignorance of a directive from Penang Barisan Nasional chairman Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon to reject the motion, issued in their presence at a pre-Assembly meeting on Nov 9.

Dr Ling said a date for the PC meeting had not been set.

"I am on leave. I will discuss the most suitable date with party secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh."

He said he had also discussed the matter with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.