

11 MAY 2002
Ling-Elections
MCA TOWARDS PEACE AND STABILITY

KUALA LUMPUR, May 10 (Bernama) -- If everything goes well during today's MCA nomination for divisional posts with party leaders and members sticking to their pledge of no contest then the party's peace and stability agenda will be realised.

The nominations are scheduled to be held between 4pm and 8pm throughout the country.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said that while some states had reached a 100 per cent no contest consensus, most had reached a 95 per cent consensus to adhere to the peace plan to maintain the status quo for incumbent leaders.

"I must say (that) I'm happy we have progressed so far in such a short period of time."

"A short distance to go (for a full no contest) by tonight or tomorrow... we will have a clear picture," he told the media after chairing a meeting of the nine-member special committee formed last week to mediate and maintain the party status quo, at Wisma MCA here.

The party Central Committee recently endorsed the proposal to maintain the status quo at divisional level onwards to prevent a split in the party leadership and ranks.

The proposal calls for no contest from divisional level onwards when the party's 166 divisions go for nominations today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in his capacity as the Barisan Nasional Chairman, had recommended that the MCA adopt a stability and peace agenda to resolve the differences between rival factions led by Dr Ling and his deputy, Datuk Lim Ah Lek.

However, Dr Ling declined to go into details when asked to reveal the states which had fully agreed to the no contest and those divisions which had yet to reach a consensus.

"Different circumstances... each one had to be handle differently. Some don't like the divisional chairmen, some don't like the deputy chairmen, that kind of things," he said.

Dr Ling attributed the success so far on the common objective and goodwill and the tireless efforts by state leaders to spread the message of unity, peace and stability.

"Through gentle persuasion... a lot of them accepted this formula in the larger interest of the community, party and the nation," said Dr Ling who is the Transport Minister.

Replying to a question, Dr Ling said that it was up to divisional leaders if they wanted to voluntarily quit their post.

"Some are tired and don't want to carry on. We don't want to force them to carry on," he said.

Such divisions should fill the vacant post through negotiations, he added.

-- BERNAMA
RV MAD AAM