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MCA will deal with Lim, Tan

Johannes Ridu; Patrick Sennyah

BINTULU, Sat. - MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today said the party will deal with its errant Penang State Assemblymen Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi).

"We are (now) doing something about (them)," he said when asked whether the MCA will expel Lim and Tan or let the Barisan Nasional discipline them instead.

Dr Ling also said the MCA would take into consideration Umno's recommendation for the duo to be expelled from MCA and BN.

"We will always listen to advice from our friends," Dr Ling said after inspecting the new RM385 million Bintulu airport, about 24 kilometres from here.

Umno supreme council had recommended the MCA expel Lim and Tan for not opposing a motion tabled by the Opposition seeking to defer the construction of the RM1.02 billion Penang Outer Ring Road.

The motion was tabled at the Penang State Assembly meeting.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is BN chairman, said Umno has strongly recommended the duo be expelled from MCA and BN.

Several other BN party leaders also recommended MCA expel them.

Dr Mahathir, however, said the the final decision would rest with the BN supreme council, which is scheduled to meet next month.

On Thursday, Dr Mahathir was quoted as saying the BN is leaving it to the MCA to decide. He also said the BN was prepared to study the case if MCA wanted it to decide.

In Kuala Lumpur, Gerakan today said the MCA should not put the BN supreme council in a dilemma by forcing it to do what the MCA should rightfully do.

Party secretary-general Chia Kwang Chye said the actions of Lim and Tan had tarnished the integrity and stability of the Penang BN and they should be dealt with accordingly.

There has been a precedent set in such a case. In June 1996 Sabah Gerakan pro-tem committee chairman Datuk Kong Hong Ming (Kudat) was expelled from the party for not supporting the Sabah BN-sponsored Sabah Forestry Enactment (Amendment) Bill aimed at reducing the administrative powers of the Chief Minister.