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MCA-Youth

MCA YOUTH NEGOTIATIONS FAIL, NO CONSENSUS ON OFFICE BEARERS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 15 (Bernama) -- MCA Youth negotiations scheduled for last week has failed to materialise and the two factions have not come up with a common list of office bearers for the 2002-2005 term.

Chairman of the MCA three-man Youth Supervisory Committee, Wang Choon Wing, said the meetings on Tuesday, Thursday and today did not reach any decision since one of the factions led by the youth deputy secretary-general Liow Tiong Lai did not attend the meetings as they wanted suspended youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat to mediate.

"I understand Datuk Ong (Tee Keat) is willing to call for a youth meeting to discuss the matter, I'm glad to hear that and I hope they can be patient and resolve the matter," he told reporters at Wisma MCA here today.

He hoped Ong would call for the meeting so that both sides could attend to settle their problems, especially to come up with a common list of office bearers before the youth delegates conference on June 28.

"We really hope they can reach an agreement among themselves," he said.

The two factions were scheduled to hold their last meeting at 10am today at Wisma MCA to come up with the common list of office bearers.

However, only the faction led by suspended youth vice-chairman Loh Seng Kok, who is also political secretary to MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, was present for the meeting.

A common list of the office bearers was required following the Central Committee's decision to maintain the status quo in the party from the division level onwards in line with the peace and stability agenda of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to resolve the crisis in MCA.

Loh said they were told by Wang that the other faction needed more time to make arrangements for further negotiations.

He said his faction had been advised by the supervisory committee to negotiate with the other faction on the common list.

"We have agreed in principle to attend if Datuk Ong calls for a meeting," he told reporters.

He said his side was ready to resolve the problems in the movement as "we want the movement to function as soon as possible."

The Youth Central Committee led by Ong was suspended by the CC on Dec 19 following a fracas at the youth delegates conference on Aug 3 last year.

Following the suspension, the CC appointed the supervisory panel headed by Wang to take over the functions of the youth CC.

-- BERNAMA

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