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MCA-Ling

MCA LEADERS NEED TO BE ACCOMMODATING, SAYS LING

KUALA LUMPUR, June 14 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik tonight advised MCA leaders, particularly those in the Youth wing, to be accommodating in reaching a consensus on the new leadership line-up for the 2002-2005 term.

He said they had nothing to lose in compromising in the interest of the party in implementing the peace plan recommended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the MCA.

"To compromise in reaching a consensus does not mean that they or anyone is conceding defeat," he told reporters after opening the annual convention of the Federal Territory MCA, here.

Also present were MCA vice-presidents Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn, Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Chan Kong Choy.

Dr Ling said this when asked to comment on the failure of the two factions in the MCA Youth wing to reach a consensus on the leadership line-up of the movement for the 2002-2005 term.

Under the peace plan, both factions in the MCA including the Youth wing must submit only one leadership line-up after the party leadership, through the central committee, decided that the status quo of all incumbents in the party from the divisional to central levels be maintained.

The MCA central committee also decided that all vacant posts must be filled through negotiations and consensus following the decision to maintain the status quo in the party.

On the cabinet decision to increase the number of bumiputera students in private institutions of higher learning (IPTS) without fixing any quota, Dr Ling said: "The cabinet has already made a decision and we will abide by it."

When asked to comment on the fact that only one bumiputera student enrolled for study at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), which is owned by MCA, he said: "We will discuss the matter within the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the BN manner."

-- BERNAMA

AT LIB AFY AO