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MCA-Ling

MORE THAN 90 PER CENT MCA DIVISIONS HAVE PLEDGED NO CONTEST, SAYS DR LING

KUALA LUMPUR, May 5 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today more than 90 per cent of the 166 MCA divisions have pledged to maintain the status quo in the party leadership and will see no contest for posts, come nomination day on May 10.

He said negotiations were ongoing to get another seven divisions to come up with a common list to maintain the status quo.

"We have to talk to these seven divisions to adhere to the peace plan outlined by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he told reporters after opening the Certificate for Early Children Education (CECE) Institute building, here.

The institute, funded by the Huaren Education Foundation, was established in 1993 to train instructors in early children's education throughout the country.

Dr Ling said the seven divisions were working out some solution among themselves to abide by the party's decision-making body, the Central Committee, to maintain the status quo at all levels in the party.

Dr Mahathir, in his capacity as Barisan Nasional chairman, has recommended that the MCA adopt a stability and peace Agenda to resolve differences between rival factions led by Dr Ling on one side and his deputy, Datuk Lim Ah Lek, on the other. The CC has agreed to the plan which calls for no contest for all party posts until 2005.

Dr Ling said there were problems like in one division where the chairman had died and some others where the chairmen wanted to resign voluntarily.

He said he was confident that the divisions would be able to come up with some compromise.

Asked on the situation in the MCA Youth where most of the state Youth chairmen could not maintain their posts due to the age limit of 45 years, he said they would be given roles to contribute to the party.

"Some of them are still division chairmen, some become exco members. There are a lot of ways to contribute," he said.

On the extra 300 delegates to the General Assembly compared with last year, Dr Ling said the steering committee would work out who would be allowed to be delegates.

Meanwhile, Wanita MCA Chief Datuk Ng Yen Yen said that only four of the women's wings in the 166 divisions throughout the country had problems maintaining the status quo.

This was due to problems like the division's Wanita chief having died and her place being taken over by the deputy chief before the decision on the status quo.

She said that on the whole, the movement did not foresee any serious problem since most of the divisions welcomed the peace and stability agenda.

The CC has fixed May 10 for nominations, May 14 for the divisional Youth and Wanita elections and May 15 for the divisional elections.

-- BERNAMA

AT ZS JK