

13 MAY 2002
Ting-Contest
NO CONTEST IN MCA FOR ANY POST UNTIL 2005

KUALA LUMPUR, May 13 (Bernama) -- The MCA headquarters election steering committee today decided to call off elections for party posts in line with the Central Committee's (CC) agreement on MCA's peace plan, which seeks to maintain status quo of all incumbents from divisional level onwards until 2005.

Party secretary-general and election steering committee head Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh said the move was in keeping with the CC's decision last month following the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The plan brokered by Dr Mahathir was aimed at ending MCA's 14-month leadership tussle between president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and his deputy Datuk Lim Ah Lek.

With the ruling today, the steering committee also rejected all nominations filed for party divisional posts on Saturday.

He said the decision to declare null and void nominations filed by party members for divisional positions followed CC's peace plan agenda.

"The decision is in line with the CC's move to maintain status quo at all levels of the party and for the single list of leaders to maintain their positions until 2005," he told reporters after a three-and-a-half-hour MCA election steering committee meeting at the MCA headquarters here today.

MCA over the weekend held nominations for divisional posts and out of the 166 divisions in the party, 42 divisions saw nominations filled for the post of division chairman.

"All nominations filled not adhering to the principles set out by the CC will not be entertained, the incumbents still retain their positions," he said.

The party divisional elections to be held tomorrow and Wednesday would automatically be called off, he said.

"All the divisions have their status quo list, so they just have to follow that," he said.

Dr Ting said although the ruling was not provided for in the party constitution, "every extraordinary situation needs very extraordinary solution for the best interest of the party."

Prior to the divisional nominations, the party top leadership had told aspiring candidates at the level not to contest for posts but they had wanted the election steering committee to decide on the status of their nominations and this was what it had done.

"They (at all levels) can go on with their annual general meetings minus the elections...it (the ruling) applies to all levels, divisions, states and national," he said.

He said five divisions had also been given a week from today to find an amicable solution to fill up vacancies for various positions.

They are Pokok Sena (vacancy for central and wanita positions), Rasah (youth), Gombak (wanita), Sungai Petani (wanita) and Bukit Mertajam (central, youth and wanita).

"If they cannot reach an amicable solution, then the CC would declare the position unfilled and take over the functions of the posts," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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