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Non-delegates likely to attend MCA's AGM

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - MCA's 49th annual general assembly tomorrow is expected to attract non-delegates to Wisma MCA, the venue of the meeting.

It is learnt that many of these people are from Selangor, the Federal Territory and Johor and want to get first-hand news about the proceedings during the assembly.

Batu delegate Hang Chin Pheng said it was normal for non-delegates to come to the party headquarters during general assemblies to show support for the leaders.

"This year, there could be more because this may be the second last time Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opens the meeting.

"Besides, so much has happened in the party over the past few months," said Hang, who is also MCA Youth national vice-chairman. He refused to speculate how many non-delegates would be present.

These non-delegates are not allowed to enter the hall where the meeting is conducted.

Sources said the crowd tomorrow would try to impress upon Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, the grassroots support for president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik's leadership.

Another delegate from Bakri who did not want to be named said the highlight of tomorrow's meeting would be Dr Mahathir's opening address.

After a tumultuous period in MCA, he said Dr Mahathir's views would be keenly-observed by grassroots leaders as the BN chairman was also the architect of MCA's peace plan.

"I believe Dr Mahathir will give some advice to the MCA," said party central committee member Donald Lim.

He added that delegates should not speculate on what the Prime Minister would say.

It is learnt that the highlight of Dr Mahathir's opening address tomorrow would be on MCA's leadership.

Tomorrow's AGM will also see the election of the party's central committee, all of whom won uncontested following the decision to strike out all nominations by challengers.