

22 APR 2002

MCA-Postponement

NOMINATION AND ELECTION FOR MCA DIVISIONS POSTPONED

KUALA LUMPUR, April 22 (Bernama) -- The nomination and election process for MCA divisional committees scheduled for April 27 and 28 have been postponed temporarily, said party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today.

He said the nomination process scheduled between 4pm and 8pm tonight had also been postponed.

"We have agreed to find ways of implementing the agenda for peace and stability proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said at a special media conference at MCA headquarters at Wisma MCA here.

Dr Ling said the decision was taken in the interest of MCA and Barisan Nasional and he subsequently urged MCA members to accept and understand the measures taken in line with the peace plan proposed by Dr Mahathir.

"We have to make sacrifices and I call upon MCA members to accept and understand the measures to be taken," he said.

He said the measures included complying with the MCA constitution on party election which must be held once every three years.

He said they also included measures to postpone temporarily the nomination process at the division level besides clarifying the agenda for peace and stability proposed by the Prime Minister at the grassroots level.

Other details concerning the agenda for peace would be discussed at the party's central committee (CC) meeting at 11am tomorrow.

Asked how long the divisional election would be postponed, Dr Ling explained: "We have until May 16 and 17."

The last divisional election was held on May 16 and 17, 1999 and under the party constitution, divisional election must be held every three years before the date.

When asked whether he had signed any peace agreement as had been signed by his deputy Datuk Lim Ah Lek, he replied in the negative.

He explained that this was because there were several matters which were not agreed upon earlier by everyone.

"All these have to be cleared first and some adjustments have to be made," he said.

Asked what were the adjustments made to the plan, Dr Ling said there was one clause which said the party election would be called off indefinitely.

On Friday, Lim announced that the EGM by Team B which he led, and the party election should be called off under the peace plan.

"The plan comes from the Prime Minister but through communication lapses there are certain issues misunderstood but all these have been cleared," he said.

He said the details of the Prime Minister's agenda for peace and stability would unfold in stages as they had to work out the details, since both sides had only agreed on the principle of the agenda.

-- BERNAMA

AZH AT DC AO