

19 APR 2002

Ling-MCA

ONLY CENTRAL COMMITTEE CAN DECIDE ON PARTY ELECTIONS, SAYS LING

By: Alan Ting

KUALA LUMPUR, April 19 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today said only the party's Central Committee can made decisions concerning party elections.

He said individual party leaders did not have the authority to decide to call off or postpone the party elections that started on March 30 at the branch level.

"No one man can overturn the decision. Only the CC (Central Committee) can decide," he said when contacted.

MCA's "Team B", alligned to party deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek, announced earlier today that the extraordinary general meeting (EGM) scheduled for this Sunday had been cancelled.

At a press conference attended by all Team B leaders, Lim said following the decision, the party's general assembly in June could proceed but elections at the divisional and state levels as well as for the party's top posts had been "called off".

MCA secretary-general Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh, in an immediate reaction, said party elections at all levels would go on according to schedule.

"I am quite surprised with the announcement that the elections had been cancelled. This would only confuse the grassroots and is not good for the party," he told reporters.

Dr Ling, when asked on the Central Committee meeting scheduled to be held on April 23 to discuss matters related to the party elections. said: "It is a routine CC meeting which will be held after the nominations for the division elections."

Nominations for the divisional elections are scheduled for April 22 with elections fixed for April 27 and 28.

Lim, at the Team B press conference, said that by calling off Sunday's EGM, his side had shown its commitment to peace and unity in the party.

He said this following the round table talk mediated by Tan Sri Lim Kok Win for both sides to find a amicable solution for the party problems.

Before leaving for Morocco on Monday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad met with the two factions within MCA to work a "peace and stability agenda".

According to sources, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi chaired the round table talk on Thursday that extended into the wee hours of today.

Asked on the matter, Dr Ling said, "Nothing. As far as I am concerned, things have not progressed."

He added that they were still in the cooling off period.

-- BERNAMA

AT MFJ SK