

03/01/2002

Tee Keat to miss task force meeting

Chow Kum Hor

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - MCA Youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat, who has been appointed vice-chairman of the MCA task force for the Indera Kayangan by-election campaign, will not attend the task force's meeting on Friday.

His private secretary Tang Thien Ming confirmed that Ong is on leave overseas.

"He had applied for leave before the announcement of his appointment. We only came to know about the meeting through Press reports today," he said.

He added that Ong, who is Deputy Youth and Sports Minister, would accept the appointment to the task force but was unable to attend the meeting.

"He will be going to Indera Kayangan on Sunday." Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the top MCA leaders from opposing factions had agreed to bury the hatchet until the Indera Kayangan by-election and had pledged to work together to retain the seat.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik announced yesterday that his deputy Datuk Lim Ah Lek would be the task force's deputy chairman while the four vice-presidents - Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn, Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Chan Kong Choy - had been appointed vice-chairmen together with Ong and MCA Wanita head Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen.

Task force secretary Loh Yoon Foo said all appointees to the by-election committee had accepted their posts although he had been informed that Ong would not attend the inaugural meeting of the task force.

"Besides Ong, I do not know if anyone else who would not be attending the meeting that will be held on Friday," said Loh, who is also Titi Tinggi Perlis State Assemblyman.