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MCA-Lim

ORIGINAL MCA PEACE PLAN AMENDED BY CC, SAYS LIM

GENTING HIGHLANDS, June 16 (Bernama) -- MCA deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek said today that the Peace and Stability Agenda forwarded by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for MCA had been amended by the party's Central Committee (CC).

He said the original proposal which he signed in front of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was amended at the CC meeting last April 23.

The peace agenda, however, was not signed by MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, he told reporters after opening the Pahang MCA Convention here.

Abdullah chaired negotiations between two factions in the party for three days from April 18.

Lim said: "The CC has made the amendment to the original one and the decision was not reached unanimously."

Earlier, in his speech, Lim said the original plan was for the party election to be postponed, to clean up the party membership list and to call off the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) petitioned by his faction to discuss the membership list issue.

"That's the ideal plan, but we did not get what we want now because of the peace agenda. We are now trying to come up with a single list (for the party's election nominations), so there will be no contest," he told a news conference.

Lim said the amendment was made to allow the party election to be held this year but with only a single list, while maintaining the status quo in the party leadership from the division level onwards.

Besides that, the CC had also decided to put aside the original proposal for the party membership to be cleaned up, he said.

"We have to abide by the CC decision. Moreover, the Prime Minister wants a cooling-off period, so we have to work toward party unity as we want to prepare a united party to face the coming general election," he said.

Lim said that they (Team B) would still like the membership list to be cleaned up after the general election as it was the only way to provide a clean and democratic election for the party in the future.

"We still like to see the clean-up within the party, so that the (membership) list is not tainted because we do not want leaders to be elected through a tainted list," he said.

Asked if the Prime Minister was agreeable to the amendment to the original agreement, Lim said: "I don't know, you got to ask the Prime Minister about it."

To a question on whether he had briefed Dr Mahathir about the amendment, Lim said: "I think his officials might have briefed him on the matter."

Lim said he would try to get an appointment with Dr Mahathir now that he had returned from his trip to Europe.

Asked if the peace plan included the question of succession in the top leadership, Lim said, "that's one piece of privileged information."

-- BERNAMA

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