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MCA-List

"UNITED" LIST FOR MCA DIVISIONAL ELECTIONS, SAYS LING

By: Alan Ting

KUALA LUMPUR, April 30 (Bernama) -- Only one list of candidates -- comprising members of the two factions in the party -- will be issued for the MCA divisional elections, party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

The list, which he referred to as the "united list", was in line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's peace and stability agenda for MCA.

"They (MCA leaders) came up with the guidelines (on the nomination list) and I think everybody will be happy with it," he told reporters after briefing MCA Members of Parliament, state assemblymen and senators at the party headquarters.

Seventy of the 98 MPs and state assemblymen attended the one-and-a-half hour briefing by Dr Ling on the peace and stability agenda.

MCA members aligned to deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek did not attend the briefing as they claimed they were not invited.

After last week's MCA Central Committee (CC) meeting, Dr Ling announced that there would be no contest for the party top posts at all levels in order to maintain the status quo at every level of the party.

He said that the no-contest decision was agreed upon by the different factions within the MCA leadership and the status quo was endorsed by the party decision-making body, the CC.

However, to maintain that status quo, the party would go ahead with its divisional elections with the CC deciding May 10 as the nomination date.

The CC had also decided that May 14 and May 15 would respectively be the divisional-level Youth and Wanita election dates.

Election for the top posts would be held on June 29 but without contest.

On today's briefing, Dr Ling said it was held with the intention to explain to the MCA leaders the peace and stability agenda including how it would be implemented.

In addition, the technical aspects of maintaining the status quo at all levels in the party was also discussed.

Both factions would hold their respective briefings on related issues and it was the onus of the respective leaders to explain them to their supporters.

Asked what would happen if the members did not follow the list on the nomination day, Dr Ling said: "We encourage discussion and negotiation as we do not encourage competition."

"I think finally, nobody will insist on contests," said Dr Ling.

However, he refused to reveal the list, saying: "We have identified them but I don't think it is wise to announce what we are going to do."

-- BERNAMA

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