

19 JUN 2002

MCA-Ong

TEE KEAT CONCERNED OVER YOUTH AGM NOTICE WITHOUT USUAL AGENDA

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Suspended MCA Youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat today expressed concern over the notice of the movement's annual general meeting (AGM) on June 28 as it did not have the usual agenda.

He said the notice issued by the three-man supervisory committee headed by Wang Choon Wing did not include the opening speech by party deputy president who would normally open the Youth meeting and the youth chief would deliver the keynote address.

"This usual agenda has been excluded from the notice. I've also been informed that the minutes of last year's youth AGM will not be distributed to delegates," he told reporters after chairing the movement's executive committee (Exco) meeting at Wisma MCA here today.

The meeting, attended by 12 out of the 20 Exco members, is the first after the party's Central Committee (CC) suspended the Youth CC on Dec 19 following a fracas at the Youth AGM on Aug 3 last year.

Following the suspension, the CC appointed the supervisory panel headed by Wang to take over the functions of the movement.

Ong, who is also Youth and Sports Deputy Minister, said he also received complaints from youths at divisional levels which have yet to decide on the single list of office bearers, but have been given notice by the three-man committee to attend the AGM.

"There are cases in Johor, Selangor and Penang where the youth delegates' lists are yet to be confirmed as there is no consensus but they have been asked to attend the AGM.

"Who confirmed the delegates' lists, we don't know," he said.

Ong also said the movement would form a special committee headed by Johor Baharu division youth head Wee Ka Siong to study problems faced by Chinese students to enter local tertiary learning institutions.

"We want to carry out an indepth study because under the merit-based system, there was a significant drop in the entry of Chinese students into local public universities. We want to know the reasons," he said.

Ong said today's Exco meeting discussed the appeals to the movement by the 39 high achievers in SPM who had applied for scholarships from the Public Services Department to further their students but have not received any reply or their applications have been rejected.

He said the meeting also welcomed the Cabinet's decision to allow 10 per cent non-Bumiputera students to enter Mara Junior Science Colleges and matriculation courses.

"We also unanimously support the proposal by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to teach mathematics and science in English in primary and secondary schools," he said.

The meeting also discussed Dr Mahathir's peace plan agenda for MCA whereby vacancies in the movement due to age limit must be filled through negotiations.

"If there is no consensus, the post should be left vacant," he said.

Asked on the appointment of vice-presidents Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Chan Kong Choy to complete the list of office bearers for the 2002-2005 term, he said: "I was surprised to know that. Until now, I do not know the terms of reference."

Ka Ting and Chan were appointed by the nine-member committee headed by party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik at the committee meeting yesterday.

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