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Ling-MCA

UP TO STEERING COMMITTEE TO DECIDE ON MCA AGM, SAYS DR LING

PETALING JAYA, March 16 (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik is leaving it to the party's Election Steering Committee to decide whether to postpone or hold the MCA annual general assembly as scheduled on June 26.

"This is up to the steering committee. If they find grounds to postpone the AGM, then I would respect their decision, but don't just postpone for the sake of postponing," he told reporters after meeting a delegation from the Xiamen Airline at a leading hotel here today.

He was responding to newspaper reports today which said the so-called Team B in MCA wanted the party's top leadership to postpone the AGM because of alleged discrepancies in the number of delegates for the assembly.

The election for national office bearers will be held at the AGM.

MCA members were given 21 days from Feb 10 to inspect the membership list at the branch, division, state and national levels, and the Election Steering Committee had received complaints on the status of 9,121 members when the period for submission of complaints ended on March 4.

Committee chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh said on Tuesday that 868 names had been deleted from the membership list, representing barely 0.1 per cent of the over one million MCA members.

Ting, who is MCA secretary-general, was also quoted by a newspaper as saying that the new MCA membership list was 99.9 per cent clean.

Dr Ling said there was no reason for the party to postpone the AGM if it had already been established that the membership list was 90 percent clean.

"We have to take into account the wishes of the majority...if it was 90 percent clean that means it represents the majority," he said.

Asked on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement early this week that the leadership tussle in the MCA could result in a division among the Chinese community, he said the squabbling in the party would be resolved amicably.

"We must have a positive agenda which is proactive for the betterment of the community...we don't want to quarrel over this matter," he added.

He said the party polls would end the leadership problems which had been faced by the party over the last one year as the delegates attending the AGM were the party's highest authority.

"They (the delegates) are the highest authority; they have to decide what kind of leaders they want and make the best choice," he added.

-- BERNAMA

SR HK YBY