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12 'security officers' to ensure order at assembly

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The MCA Youth assembly tomorrow will see 12 "security officers" ensuring order during the meeting.

MCA elections steering committee chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh said the movement had expressed confidence in the "security officers", all of whom were party workers.

Traditionally, about 30 to 50 Vanguard members, who wear caps and dark blue vests, would ensure order and show delegates to their seats.

However, during last year's AGM which saw delegates throwing chairs, some Vanguard members became partisan in the ruckus, with some taking off their uniforms and joining the melee.

"I believe delegates are more mature this year. They will not act rashly," said Ting who is also party secretary-general.

He said the Youth assembly, to be held in Dewan San Choon at the party headquarters, was expected to be attended by over 1,500 delegates.

The Wanita assembly will be held at the Putra World Trade Centre and is expected to be attended by over 1,800 delegates.

Wanita MCA head Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen said today she expected the debate to centre on hudud as it was of great concern to women.

"Maybe we will also touch on women as agents of change and progress," she said.

Dr Ng, who is also Culture, Arts and Tourism Deputy Minister, said Wanita MCA supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to hand over the leadership to his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"Wanita MCA is thankful to the Prime Minister for a smooth transition of the leadership baton.

"We have absolutely great respect for Abdullah. He is a very caring man with a very strong set of principles," she said.

Dr Ng said whoever the Prime Minister had chosen as his successor could not be any ordinary person.

"Dr Mahathir would have thought long and hard.

"We are confident that Abdullah, when he takes over in October 2003, will take Malaysia to another level," she said.

On the MCA peace plan, Dr Ng said it was well-received by the women's wing.

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