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Abdullah-MCA

LIFTING OF ASSEMBLYMEN'S SUSPENSION SHOULD FOLLOW PROCEDURE, SAYS
ABDULLAH

SEPANG, July 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that the lifting of the suspension of two Penang MCA state assemblymen should be done according to procedure, that is it should be decided by the Barisan Nasional (BN) Supreme Council.

The deputy prime minister said it was important to understand that the decision to suspend the assemblymen was made by the BN Supreme Council, and it was thus a BN case.

Abdullah, who is BN deputy chairman, said the question on the lifting of the suspension boiled down to a matter of procedure.

Since MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting had given his views that the suspension of the two be lifted, the BN Supreme Council could meet to decide on the matter, he told reporters on his return here from a three-day official visit to Japan.

Abdullah was asked to comment on the MCA Presidential Council's decision last Thursday to lift the suspension of Jawi state assemblywoman Tan Cheng Liang and Datuk Keramat state assemblyman Lim Boo Chang.

The duo were suspended indefinitely on Dec 16 last year for abstaining from voting against a DAP motion in the Penang State Assembly to defer the Penang Outer Ring Road Project (PORR).

Asked on Penang BN chairman Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon's statement that he was not consulted by MCA on lifting the suspension, Abdullah said Ong had sought the views of several BN leaders on the matter.

Ong also offered his views, especially on the need to strengthen MCA and to prevent further problems from cropping up in the party, Abdullah said.

"He had also met me. If he gave such views, I would not stop an action that can bring benefits," Abdullah said, adding that he believed that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also held the same view.

Abdullah said it was important that BN Supreme Council members could give their views at a meeting for a decision to be taken.

The meeting could consider the views aired by all Supreme Council members, including those from other component parties, he said.

It could then endorse the proposal to lift the suspension, he said.

"Then it (suspension) would no longer be in effect, and it would become a decision and there would be no dispute on the matter," Abdullah said.

"I hope there would be no problems. I hope that MCA, following my statement just now, would not feel uneasy," he said.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ YBY