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Ong-Assemblymen

MCA FOLLOWED PROCEDURES TO LIFT SUSPENSION

IPOH, July 13 (Bernama) -- The MCA followed Barisan Nasional (BN) procedures when it lifted the suspension on its two Penang assemblymen and it is up to the BN Supreme Council to endorse the decision, MCA President Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said today.

He said the MCA used the same procedures to lift the suspension as when they decided on the suspension of Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi) and Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) on Dec 16 last year.

"The MCA Presidential Council had convened and decided on the suspension. After that the Presidential Council had informed the BN Supreme Council especially Chairman (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) and Secretary General (Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat). After that BN Supreme Council met and they endorsed the decision at that time," he told reporters after opening Perak MCA Annual Convention, here today.

Yesterday, Penang Chief Minister who is also Penang BN Chairman Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said although the MCA had reinstated the two, their status as state assemblymen should be determined by the BN Supreme Council.

Dr Koh had also expressed surprise that the suspension of the two had been lifted because he was not informed about the matter and had not been consulted before the decision was made.

"After we made the decision at the meeting, I had written official letters to the BN Chairman and to the Secretary General. I also sent copies of the official letter to BN Deputy Chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Penang BN Chairman (Dr Koh)," he said.

Ong said they had followed the procedures and what the BN Supreme Council was going to discuss and decide would be its right and the MCA had done its part.

"What they are going to do...I do not want jump into that and it is still far away. We did not know when the Supreme Council will meet. It has still not been decided. But the most important thing is, they (the two state assembly members) have gone through seven months of suspension. I am confident they will not repeat the same mistake," he said. (Both members of the state assembly chose to abstain from a vote on an opposition motion against the construction of the Penang Outer Ring Road).

Meanwhile MCA Deputy President Datuk Chan Kong Choy said the MCA decision to lift the suspension was done in good faith in the interest of the BN especially in Penang.

"Now, Penang has a more powerful team with two more BN assembly members to serve the BN even better. We hope Dr Koh will view this on a positive light. We have the strongest support in Penang BN. We are looking forward to helping the Penang BN," he said.

-- BERNAMA

KAY KAY AAM