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MCA-Upset

MCA YOUTH UPSET OVER CC'S DECISION ON STATE YOUTH APPOINTEES

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 20 (Bernama) -- The MCA Youth is disappointed with the decision of the Central Committee (CC) over the appointments of the Selangor Youth chairman and youth chiefs in three other states.

Youth secretary-general Liow Tiong Lai said the movement was upset by the decision to appoint Wong Koon Mun as the Selangor MCA Youth head.

It is also unhappy with the president's directive that the disputed state youth chairman's post for Penang, Federal Territory and Negeri Sembilan be settled by the respective state liaison committees.

"We view this matter seriously and feel that this strong-arm tactic will bring forth serious consequences," he told reporters at Wisma MCA here today.

The issue on the appointments of state youth chiefs had become the focus of arguments between rival factions in the wing for the past one week.

Following implementation of the peace plan brokered by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in May last year, the status-quo of the office-bearers was extended to another term while in the youth wing, which has a age limit, negotiations were held to fill the vacancies, which include several state youth chief's posts.

However, the appointees for state youth chiefs in Selangor, Penang, Federal Territory and Negeri Sembilan were disputed by rival factions in the movement.

Under the MCA peace plan, vice-president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Chan Kong Choy were supposed to mediate if contenders for youth positions could not come to a compromise.

Last week, the CC endorsed a new youth line-up for Selangor, prompting a foul cry from the faction aligned to "Team B" as the new state youth chief Wong Koon Mun was from "Team A" led by party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

Liow said the appointments have met with strong opposition from the grassroots who were unhappy over the matter and had demanded MCA Youth to state its stand.

He said they were angry and disappointed by the strong-arm tactics used in resolving the Selangor MCA Youth dispute, which they regarded as a "undemocratic decision" and had caused irreparable damage to the reputation and integrity of MCA Youth members.

"The president has always stated that his position and his successor should not be decided by the leaders but be left to the delegates but for the youth, it seems that different rules apply.

"For the youth, he has allowed the position of the chairman or the successor of the youth leaders to be decided by senior leaders, which is in contradiction to what the president has preached. What a shame," he said.

He also said prior to the decision, the youth in the respective states was able to carry out their activities.

"However, upon the announcement of the decision, it has once again ignited a real confrontation among youth members in these states," he said.

Therefore, the MCA youth had proposed an alternative option to resolve the state youth leadership controversy by holding an election in states where the appointees are being disputed after taking measures to resolve the phantom members' issue.

"The party leaders must resolve the phantom members' issue and to clean

up the delegates' list so that a fair, transparent and democratic election can be conducted," he said.

Liow also said the party leadership should not take further action that could split the MCA Youth further as it could jeopardise the MCA Youth election machinery and the party's preparations for the general election.

-- BERNAMA

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