

01 JUN 2003

MCA-Speculation

STOP SPECULATION ON MCA V-P CANDIDATES, SAYS CHAN

KUALA LUMPUR, June 1 (Bernama) -- MCA deputy president Datuk Chan Kong Choy today urged MCA members to stop the speculation on candidates for the party's vice-presidents' posts as this could affect party stability.

He said the vacancy issue would only be decided at the MCA Central Committee meeting and it would continue to uphold its principle not to discuss internal issues publicly.

"We (MCA) will discuss and resolve the internal issues such as the vacancies in the MCA at the party's meeting when the time comes...we don't believe in speculations," he told reporters after launching a Dumpling Festival, here today.

Chan, who is also Deputy Finance Minister, said this when asked to comment on the rumour concerning several candidates expected to fill the two vacant vice-presidents' posts as reported in the local media lately.

The two vice-presidents' posts were made vacant following the appointment of Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting as MCA president succeeding Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, and Chan as deputy president succeeding Datuk Seri Lim Ah Lek on May 23.

Two other MCA vice-presidents are Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn and Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng.

Dr Ling had also said on May 28 that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had agreed to accept his resignation as Transport Minister too.

In another development, Chan said the MCA's proposal to limit the term of its office bearers to not more than three consecutive terms was only for the post of MCA president.

On the party's preparation for the general election, he said: "Give us (MCA) a little more time (to draw up a strategy),"

The Dumpling Festival organised by the Bukit Bintang MCA was part of efforts to promote the traditional Chinese food and had attracted the interest of the multi-racial society.

Among the programmes held were ceramah, demonstration and contest on making dumplings as well as performances by local artistes.

-- BERNAMA

RW KHY AO