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BN leaders welcome Ong-Chan team in MCA

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Barisan Nasional component party leaders today welcomed the appointment of Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Chan Kong Choy as the new MCA president and deputy.

BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat urged all MCA members to accept Ong and Chan as their new leaders in the party and give their undivided support to them.

"This is the sacrifice that the former leaders have made for the love of the party and to ensure there is continuous political stability in MCA and the BN," said Mohamed.

He added that Ong and Chan both have a big responsibility to strengthen the party.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said he was pleased that the MCA, being the second biggest party in the BN, had resolved its internal crisis.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also BN chairman, had always placed emphasis on unity and strength.

"A strong MCA will be a great asset for the BN to face the general election with full strength and vigour," Samy Vellu said.

People's Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk M. Kayveas said the party would give its full support and co-operation to Ong and Chan in running MCA.

"All quarters must accept the decision of Dr Ling and Lim to resign from their posts as it shows they are giving priority to the party unity and stability."

Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib said Ong and Chan should work together to unite the party and mend any rift among the members.

"There should no longer be Team A and Team B in MCA. It is the responsibility of these two newly-elected leaders to strengthen MCA and ensure the party would perform well in the next general election."

Gerakan secretary-general Chia Kwang Chye said the party respected Dr Ling's and Lim's resignation in the interest of the BN as it was the best solution to settle the long dispute in the MCA.

"We hope that with the new appointments, MCA can solve their leadership problem as soon as possible."

Wanita Umno has expressed hope that change in MCA's top leadership would finally bring about stability and calm besides ending the divisiveness in the Barisan Nasional component party.