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BN will consider MCA's view on duo's status

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Barisan Nasional supreme council will consider MCA's view when deciding on whether to reinstate the membership of its two elected representatives who were suspended for abstaining in an Opposition motion in the Penang Legislative Assembly, last December.

Deputy chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today only BN could make a decision whether to reinstate the duo, as decided during the MCA presidential council meeting last month.

"Only BN can decide on their fate as it was us who suspended them. We will consider the party's views in making our decision, as there are some matters which need to be settled first," said Abdullah after chairing the BN management committee meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Abdullah, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, said today's meeting did not discuss the issue as it could only be resolved by the BN supreme council, adding that it was up to BN chairman Datuk Seri Sr Mahathir Mohamad to decide on the supreme council meeting date.

On July 11, MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting had announced the party's move to reinstate the membership of Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi) after a seven-month suspension.

Lim and Tan had on Nov 21 last year abstained in an Opposition motion to postpone the RM1.01 billion Penang Outer Ring Road project.

This led to criticism from BN component parties, especially Gerakan, which dominated the Penang Government.

The MCA presidential council "suspended indefinitely" Lim and Tan after an internal disciplinary inquiry. The BN supreme council on Jan 7 had endorsed the decision and agreed it was up to BN to decide how long the suspension would last.