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Duo express gratitude to MCA council

PENANG, Thurs. - MCA elected State representatives Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi) and Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) today expressed their gratitude to the MCA presidential council for lifting their seven-month suspension.

Tan said she was relieved and very happy with the decision and thanked the leaders as well as her constituents for supporting her throughout the suspension period.

"I was ecstatic when State MCA deputy chairman Datuk Koay Kar Huah informed me earlier today.

"I would also like to thank Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and past president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik for their continuous support and encouragement to us during the past seven months," she said.

Tan also said she had learnt valuable lessons during her suspension and that it had helped her observe things in a broader perspective.

"It is no doubt that I had to struggle through the ordeal of not being able to attend meetings and Government functions and I had to do extra work to serve my constituency.

"I am very happy now that I can continue with my activities with no restriction," she added.

Lim, also in a telephone interview, described the suspension as "difficult" as it had caused many difficulties for him in serving his 20,000 constituents.

"Government agencies and departments were instructed by the Chief Minister (Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon) to exclude me in all development meetings and that they even refused to acknowledge receipt of my letters.

"Even my wife, Diong Chong Mee, who belonged to the Bunga Tanjung club (a welfare organisation for wives of Penang Assemblymen) was not allowed to renew her membership three months ago as she was told her husband's status was 'dubious'," said Lim.

He said besides being unable to supervise his constituency's development, he was also suspended from the MCA's national legal bureau and from his duties as the party's State assistant secretary.

Disciplinary action was taken against Lim and Tan for breaching Barisan Nasional discipline when they abstained from voting with the Government on a motion by the Opposition to postpone the RM1.02 billion Penang Outer Ring Road (PORR) during the State Legislative Assembly sitting on November 21 last year.