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Friday meeting to resolve MCA crisis

Chow Kum Hor

THE MCA central committee will meet on Friday to discuss a final resolution that may bring an end to the party's protracted leadership crisis.

The resolution is said to be the final phase of a formula brokered by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in April last year.

Earlier efforts to resolve the bitter fight between party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik who leads MCA's Team A and his deputy Datuk Seri Lim Ah Lek who is Team B leader, failed, leading to both sides calling for Dr Mahathir to mediate.

Last year, Dr Mahathir stepped in. He was assisted by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and businessmen Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew and Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing.

This resulted in the MCA peace plan, where among others, Team B should call off its EGM and for Dr Ling and Lim step down together and the party membership registry be cleared of any phantom members.

The party crisis was sparked off in 2000 by failure to resolve the succession issue but aggravated by the party's takeover of Nanyang Press Holdings Bhd in May 2001.

Dr Ling is said to favour vice-president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting to take over while Lim had wanted another vice-president, Datuk Chan Kong Choy.