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Going for solution

THE MCA peace formula looks set to work this time, provided the key players keep to the script. Whatever happens when the party's central committee meets on Friday, it is clear that it has to address a leadership crisis most people are getting tired of. And drastic problems often call for radical decisions - which is what everyone is anticipating.

The bitter fight between party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and his deputy, Datuk Seri Lim Ah Lek, has continued far too long, threatening even to undermine the strength of the Barisan Nasional in the next general election. Friday's attempt at finding a resolution is said to be the culmination of efforts brokered by Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and ably assisted by his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. And this is all the more reason for compromises to be reached, sacrifices to be made and promises to be kept.

Dr Mahathir should be pleased that, at long last, the two rivals will be keeping their pledges. He is believed to want to see the MCA crisis resolved before he hands over to Abdullah. Indeed, the mood appears to be optimistic and conciliatory. It is hoped that both sides will now go for peace and consensus.