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Rift won't heal with resignations, says Keadilan vice-president

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Opposition leaders are not optimistic that the leadership change in MCA will help settle the long-standing crisis in the party, saying it is only a temporary measure.

Parti Keadilan Nasional vice-president Azmin Ali said he had his reservations about MCA's ability to overcome its internal politicking with the new appointments.

"I do not think that they will be able to solve the problems as the new president and his deputy are proxies of the former two leaders.

"That being the case, I believe they will inherit the same problems faced by their predecessors. This is certainly not the end to the MCA crisis," he said.

DAP national chairman Lim Kit Siang said that Chan should be made the MCA acting president until the police had completed investigations into the allegations that Ong had links to triads.

Lim said the manner in which the MCA crisis was resolved showed there was involvement of some external factors.

"BN chairman (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) had a day before the MCA central committee meeting expressed his confidence that the situation in the party will improve with the resignation of Dr Ling and Lim.

"This is a clear proof that the resignations were already set and sealed before the central committee meeting," he said in a statement today.

DAP secretary-general Kerk Kim Hock said the appointments were not the end to the internal crisis in MCA but "quite an effective temporary measure".

"It is yet to be seen in the long term whether this appointment will put an end to MCA's internal crisis given the intense fighting over the past three years.

"What is certain is that it will minimise the damage that the crisis has caused which if left to continue, will have a big impact on BN's chances in the next general election," said Kerk.

Pas information head Azizan Razak, who is State Assemblyman for Sala, said: "The change does not mean that the problem ends there and everything is fine with BN.

Federation of Nam-Ann Associations of Malaysia president Datuk Dr Tan Tiong Hong, said the resignations proved that Dr Ling and Lim had adhered to the succession plan in the party.