

MCA to amend constitution

MUAR: MCA plans to amend its constitution to allow for postponement of party elections for up to one year from the scheduled date.

Its central committee will meet on Oct 17 to discuss it in anticipation that the general election can be called before 2008.

MCA's coalition partner Umno amended its constitution in the late 1990s to provide for the party to postpone its election for up to 18 months.

The clause has been invoked twice to make way for the 1999 and 2004 general elections.

MCA secretary-general Datuk Ong Ka Chuan said state and divisional party leaders had begun to gather feedback from the grassroots on the pos-

sible amendment.

"For example, if the party election is scheduled on Aug 31, 2008, and if the general election is called before that date, we may have to postpone MCA election for six months or up to one year," he said.

He said the postponement would enable members to focus on the general election.

Speaking after a Johor MCA seminar here yesterday, Ong said the party had drawn up programmes to train more leaders to serve the community. He said the service would focus on solving local problems.

On general election candidates, he said it was too early to speculate but confirmed that line-up would comprise 20 per cent of new faces.