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KUALA LUMPUR: The Prime Minister should continue to be elected using the present system and not by direct polls, says Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

The MCA president was disagreeing with Umno veteran Tan Sri

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah's proposal that the Prime Minister should be chosen by direct elections.

"The current system is transparent and good, whereby Members of Parliament (MPs) choose the Prime Minister," Liow said after the closing ceremony of an orientation programme for new party members at Wisma MCA here yesterday.

Liow said Malaysia practised the Westminster system in which the people chose their MPs, who would in turn elect the Prime Minister.

He, however, said he supported moves for an "internal rejuvenation" of Barisan Nasional so that it could be more inclusive of all races.

Tengku Razaleigh had reportedly proposed for Malaysia to consider

other systems in selecting its prime minister such as direct elections.

He had said the Westminster system might be irrelevant now as Malaysians had changed.

On another matter, Liow said the party hoped to recruit 1,300 new MCA members.

"We will be having 15 more recruitment drives," he said, adding

that 512 new Youth members had participated in the orientation.

Liow said he hoped more young Malaysians would join and help MCA in its transformation.

"MCA is an asset to the Chinese community and is a party that upholds positive values," he said.

"We want more youths to promote such values to their peers."