

## **MCA EGM on February 23 to seek approval to take up government posts**

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**BY EILEEN NG**

MCA is going ahead with its extraordinary general meeting (EGM) on February 23 to seek members' approval to return to government, despite coming under fire from several leaders over the move.

The Chinese party is confident the EGM would not affect the party's preparations to face the March 23 Kajang by-election.

The EGM, to be held together with the party's anniversary celebrations in Wisma MCA, will see delegates voting on a resolution to enable the Chinese party leaders to take up posts at federal, state and local levels.

This, despite the fact that in an earlier EGM held last October 20, members had voted to allow leaders to take up posts at state and local authority levels. At the same time, they voted against its leaders taking up cabinet positions.

The three-in-one resolution, together with the timing of the EGM, so near to the by-election, had been criticised by former president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek and former vice-president Gan Ping Sieu.

Today, Dr Chua's successor, Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai (pic) tried to justify convening the EGM, stressing that the three-in-one resolution was partly to reaffirm the results of the October 20 EGM.

"The resolution was submitted by the requisitionists and we have no power to change it.

"Moreover, it was requested by more than 1,900 central delegates and we have to hold it within 30 days, in accordance with the party's constitution," he said, after chairing the party's central committee meeting today.

The senior BN party had decided against taking up any government posts since it fared badly in the 13th general election, ending up with only seven of 37 federal seats and 11 of 90 state seats it contested.

Liow dispelled worries that the EGM would affect preparations for the Kajang by-election, saying that all necessary preparation had been made.

"The by-election is more than a month away. The EGM will not affect our preparations for the by-election. The by-election is still important to us and we will face the challenge," he said.

The by-election, the country's third since the 13th general election, was triggered by the resignation of PKR assemblyman Lee Chin Cheh.

PKR is expected to field Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in the urban mixed seat, while BN has yet to name theirs. - February 13, 2014.

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