

Overhaul for division after crossover

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PENANG: The Bukit Mertajam MCA division will undergo an "overhaul" after 106 division members reportedly quit the party.

Penang MCA chairman Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy said division chairman Lau Chiek Tuan and state MCA organising secretary Tan Cheng Liang had been assigned to reorganise the division.

"I have given them two months to re-structure and strengthen the division," he said after chairing the state liaison committee meeting here

yesterday.

The members were reported to have quit the party three days ago.

Some of them were said to be holding positions such as branch chairman, branch Youth chairman and branch Wanita chief.

The group, led by the division's former vice-chairman Tan Hock Leong, were said to have crossed over to opposition Parti Keadilan Rakyat.

Tan reportedly said that they were dejected over the approach taken by the party over

certain issues such as the shortage of Chinese schools and what he claimed was the marginalisation of the Chinese community under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

Chan said the accusations were baseless.

"Why had they not said all this when they were still members?" he asked.

Lau, who is also state deputy MCA chairman, said he had not received any resignation letter from the members who allegedly quit.

On another matter, Chan said

each MCA division in Penang was required to set up a Youth branch comprising members aged between 18 and 35 by the year-end.

He said the move would help nurture the interest in politics among youths.

He said the Bukit Mertajam, Bayan Baru and Permatang Pauh divisions had already set up such branches.

Chan also said Jawi assemblyman Tan Cheng Liang had been assigned to organise a dinner to raise RM150,000 for Chinese schools in the state.