

MAHATHIR-MCA

BY IDZAN ISMAIL

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 21 (BERNAMA) -- THE POSITION OF THE TWO DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO HAD BEEN EXPELLED BY THE MCA WILL BE REVIEWED SOON, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD DISCLOSED TODAY.

+OF COURSE, I WILL HAVE TO REVIEW DATUK DR. LING LIONG SIK'S AND DATUK LEE KIM SAI'S POSITION AS THEY NOW NO LONGER REPRESENT THE MCA IN THE GOVERNMENT,+ THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD BERNAHA.

FOR THE TIME BEING, THE TWO DEPUTY MINISTERS WOULD REMAIN IN THE GOVERNMENT UNTIL A DECISION WAS TAKEN.

DATUK DR. LING, THE DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER AND AN HCA CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND DATUK LEE, THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT AND MCA YOUTH LEADER, WERE AMONG THE 14 MEMBERS WHO WERE SACKED FROM THE PARTY TWO DAYS AGO FOR WHAT THE MCA LEADERSHIP DESCRIBED AS CARRYING OUT ACTIVITIES INJURIOUS TO THE PARTY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR COULD NOT SAY WHEN THE REVIEW ON THE TWO LEADERS' POSITION WOULD BE CARRIED OUT AS +I AM GOING TO PAKISTAN TOMORROW,+ HE SAID.

HE CONFIRMED THAT MCA ACTING PRESIDENT DATUK DR. NEO YEE FAN MET HIM YESTERDAY TO CLARIFY THE POSITION OF THE TWO DEPUTY MINISTERS AND REQUESTED HIM TO REMOVE THEM FROM THE GOVERNMENT. -- MORE 1545/MB

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THE PRIME MINISTER DECLINED TO ELABORATE IN THE MEETING BUT SAID HE HAD LISTENED TO THE EXPLANATION GIVEN BY DATUK DR. NEO AND HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER THE VIEWS THAT HAD BEEN EXPRESSED.

+OBVIOUSLY I HAVE TO CONSIDER DATUK DR. NEO'S REQUEST.

THE TWO WERE REPRESENTING THE MCA IN THE GOVERNMENT, BUT NOW THEY ARE NOT MCA MEMBERS, IT'S QUITE LEGITIMATE FOR HIM (DATUK DR. NEO) TO MAKE SUCH A REQUEST,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE MCA CRISIS FOLLOWING THE EXPULSION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF BARISAN NASIONAL, COMMENTED. +WELL, OF COURSE, I WISH THINGS WOULD BE MORE QUIET BUT I CAN'T HAVE EVERYTHING.

+IF THAT IS GOING TO BE THE WAY, I WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.+

HE BELIEVED DATUK DR. NEO COULD DEAL WITH THE SITUATION AND THE MCA LEADERSHIP WOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THE WAY TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS.

+ALL I CAN SAY, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE NO CRISIS AND OF COURSE, IF THERE IS A CRISIS, THEY (THE MCA) MUST LEARN HOW TO HANDLE IT,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA 1550/MB