

MAHATHIR-RESIGNATION

84 ①
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 28 (BERNAMA)-- THE TWO MCA DEPUTY MINISTERS WHO WERE EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY RECENTLY HAVE RESIGNED FROM THE GOVERNMENT WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY.

ANNOUNCING THIS, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID DATUK DR. LING CIONG SIK, THE DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER, AND DATUK LEE KIM SAX, THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, TENDERED THEIR LETTERS OF RESIGNATION ON HIS ADVICE.

DATUK LEE, WHO IS ALSO MCA YOUTH LEADER, SENT HIS LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY AT 11.30 A.M. AS DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS CHAIRING THE CABINET MEETING.

DATUK LEE LEFT AT 12.30 P.M. AFTER MEETING THE PRIME MINISTER'S POLITICAL SECRETARY, MEGAT JUNID AYUB.

BERNAMA UNDERSTANDS THAT DATUK LING ALSO HANDED IN HIS RESIGNATION LETTER THIS AFTERNOON. -- MORE 1628/NB

ZCZC N084 (F/S)

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+THEY RESIGNED ON MY ADVICE. SINCE THEY ARE NO LONGER MCA MEMBER, IT IS OBVIOUS THEY HAVE TO RESIGN, + THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS HIS PREROGATIVE TO RELIEVE THE TWO FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT POSTS AND HIS DECISION WAS NOT MADE ON THE ADVICE OF MCA ACTING PRESIDENT DATUK DR. NEO YEE PAN.

+THERE IS NO QUESTION OF DATUK DR. NEO PRESSURING ME TO REMOVE THE TWO FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

IT IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO REMOVE THEM AND I MADE THE DECISION, + HE ADDED.

DATUK DR. LING AND DATUK LEE MET DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR YESTERDAY: DURING WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMED THEM OF HIS DECISION TO TERMINATE THEIR SERVICES FROM THE GOVERNMENT. -- #ORE- 1632/PA

ZCZC N085

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MEANWHILE, SOURCES SAID THE ACTING MCA PRESIDENT WAS EXPECTED TO PRESENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER THIS WEEK A LIST OF POSSIBLE CANDIDATES TO REPLACE THE TWO DEPUTY MINISTERS WHO HAD RESIGNED.

DATUK LEE AND DATUK DR. LING WERE AMONG THE 14 MCA MEMBERS EXPELLED FROM THE MCA FOR WHAT THE MCA LEADERSHIP DESCRIBED AS CARRYING OUT ACTIVITIES PREJUDICIAL TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PARTY. -- SERNAMA 1634/PA