

Govt to keep

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pledges,

PM tells Ling

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has assured the MCA that the Government will fulfil all its pledges and promises made prior and subsequent to the 1986 general election, MCA president and Transport Minister Datuk Dr Ling Liong Sik told a Press conference today.

He said the Prime Minister made it clear that as chairman of the Barisan Nasional it was his keen interest to see the Barisan triumph in the next election.

The Prime Minister, however, also said that the question of all pledges and promises being fulfilled before the next general election should not arise, he added.

Datuk Dr Ling said his meeting with Dr Mahathir on Tuesday, which lasted for more than an hour, was convened in a "polite" and "courteous" manner.

Various socio-economic issues were brought up, mainly:

- Government grants for new villages;
- the recognition of Tuanku Abdul Rahman College diplomas and certificates; and,
- amendment to Section 21(2) of the Education Act which empowers the Government to

convert Chinese and Tamil schools into national-type schools.

Datuk Dr Ling did not elaborate on his discussion with the Prime Minister on these matters apart from saying that Dr Mahathir gave the assurance that the Government would fulfil its pledges with regard to these issues within a "reasonable" time frame.

Recognition of TAR College courses, for instance, is believed to be on the way.

The application for the recognition of TAR College diplomas and certificates was submitted in September last year.

Final stage

Earlier this month, Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim told the Dewan Rakyat that the move to grant recognition to the college was in its "final stage".

Describing his meeting with the Prime Minister as a good experience, Datuk Dr Ling said it resulted in a fruitful exchange and convergence of ideas.

It was agreed that he would continue to have dialogues with Dr Mahathir from time to time to sort out any differences that may arise.