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MCA-Ling

DEBATE IDEAS WILL GUIDE CHANGES IN CHINESE COMMUNITY

KUALA LUMPUR, July 7 (Bernama) -- The MCA will use ideas from the debates sparked off by the prime minister's address at its general assembly yesterday as a guide to implement change in the Chinese community.

Its president, Datuk seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said: "I am glad that the prime minister raised points like this because it will spark off a debate, a healthy debate, and we can pick and choose the best ideas from these debates for implementation," he told reporters at Wisma MCA here today.

Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, was asked to comment on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that the Chinese community needed new approaches to enable them to have closer and more effective cooperation with the Malays.

The prime minister, in his opening address at the assembly said Malaysian Chinese needed an approach similar to that of the "Melayu Baru".

The "Melayu Baru" concept is to change the culture and value system of the Malays and other bumiputeras so that they have self-confidence and are able to compete economically without being too dependent on the government.

Dr Ling said that in an ever changing world "we must always be prepared to change and to adapt to change so that change becomes a friend, change does not become an enemy," he said.

Asked whether there would be any changes in the MCA representation in the government with yesterday's party election results, Dr Ling said he would have to think about it.

However, he said that the Cabinet line-up was the prerogative of the prime minister and that the government could not be changing every time one of the 14 Barisan Nasional component parties had its elections.

MCA leaders were represented in the government based on two main guiding principles -- to make the best use of the talents and to know the will of the party's delegates, he added.

Besides these principles there were many other things to be considered so as to maximise the utilisation for the benefit of the party and the country, he added.

In yesterday's party elections, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Wong See Wah failed to defend his post as one of the four MCA vice-presidents.

The four vice-presidents elected for the next three-year term were incumbents Datuk Chua Jui Meng, who is Health Minister, and MP for Serdang Datuk Yap Pian Hon and new faces Deputy Home Minister Ong Ka Ting and Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn. -- BERNAMA

AFY JK