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Ling: MCA is 100pc behind Dr Mahathir

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KOTA KINABALU, Sun. - The MCA has pledged its support to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and is confident of his handling of problems affecting the country.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said: "I am going to tell Dr Mahathir that we are 100 per cent behind him. We will not run away just because the foreign media want to tarnish his image."

He was asked to comment on recent reports in the international media including Newsweek, suggesting that the Prime Minister should resign in view of the country's current economic situation.

Dr Ling said that under Dr Mahathir's leadership Malaysia had emerged as the 17th largest trading nation in the world, with 82 per cent of its exports being locally manufactured goods.

Since Dr Mahathir took office as Prime Minister 16 years ago, Malaysia has become a more united and dynamic nation.

"Dr Mahathir turned Malaysia into a united and dynamic nation with a single mind to develop all races.

"We Malaysian Chinese and the other races are not ungrateful and we will not easily forget what he has done for us...we do not run away when friends are in trouble," Dr Ling told reporters after launching the party's Langkawi project for Sabah.

The party also supports the role of and efforts by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to address problems affecting the country's economy.

Dr Ling told the foreign media to "mind their own business", saying their recent suggestion that the Prime Minister should step down was a futile attempt to divide and rule.

He said the foreign media should stop meddling in Malaysia's domestic affairs, adding that Malaysians were capable of deciding who their leader should be.

In Kuala Lumpur, the MIC is expected to pass a resolution in support of Dr Mahathir's leadership at the party's central working committee meeting on Tuesday, a party official said today.

He said the CWC meeting will be chaired by MIC president and Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, who is accompanying Dr Mahathir on his 12-day four-nation tour of South American countries.

They will return home tomorrow.

Yesterday, Deputy Umno Youth leader Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said the movement fully supported Dr Mahathir and had confidence in his handling of the currency crisis.

Hishammuddin, who is also the Deputy Primary Industries Minister, also hit out at the international media for suggesting that Dr Mahathir should resign following the crisis.

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