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Maintain unity to enhance growth, says MCA chief

MALACCA, Sat. - MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik reminded all communities to maintain unity and stability of the country as it would help Malaysia's continued progress.

He said many foreigners had been asking how the country had achieved high economic growth for the last 10 years although there were many races in Malaysia.

"The success lies in our unity and political stability. This had resulted in foreigners having the confidence to invest in the country," he said.

Dr Ling, who is also Transport Minister, said this when launching the Malacca town 'Lantern Festival' organised by the State MCA and the Malacca Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

He said for this reason alone all communities should fully support Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as he had proven his capability to be the architect of Malaysia's progress.

"He has managed to foster and improve unity among the races. With the Chinese New Year and Hari Raya coming one after the other, let us all vow again to work together with all communities in Malaysia for the sake of unity and continued progress," he said.

Dr Ling also called on all Malaysians to work together for the development of the country.

"Let us work together to improve on our condition. Let today be better than yesterday and let this year be better than last year. For this to be achieved Malaysians, regardless of race, should work together for the continued economic growth of the country."

Ling said Malaysians should work hard if they want progress.

He said the country's progress depended heavily on the ability of the local population to work hard.

"The country cannot continuously rely on foreigners to build it up. The population, which consists of various races, should work hard in ensuring a prosperous Malaysia," he said.

Ling also commended the Malacca MCA for successfully organising a big event like the lantern festival.

"This will help promote tourism and teach the younger generation of Chinese to appreciate our culture," he said.

A total of RM450,000 was spent by the MCA and the Malacca Chamber of Commerce to decorate the city streets with lanterns of red and yellow on 48 streets.

Also in attendance were Dr Ling's wife Datin Seri Ena Ling, MCA vice president Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn, State MCA chief Datuk Gan Boon Leong and MCA Youth deputy head Datuk Poh Ah Tiam.

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